48

Climax

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48

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asako toshio presents

CHAPTER 517

OVER THE LINE

HE INTEN-TIONALLY FLATTENED THE HANDKER-CHIEF AND

PLACED IT ON THE GROUND BEFORE THE ROUND EVEN BEGAN!!

BUT WHY WOULD HE DO THAT!?

YOU WILL NOTICE WHAT I HAVE DONE WHEN THIS TURN ENDS...

HAL...

AND TURN THE TABLES AROUND.

TO ACCU-MULATE YOUR NEAR-DEATH DRUG...

I'LL USE THIS ONE SINGLE CHANCE

I DO NOT WISH FOR MUCH.

BUT THAT'S ALL I NEED.

AVOIDING THE SLIGHTEST UNEVENNESS.

COMPLETELY FLAT.

USOGUI HAD UNFOLDED THE HANDKERCHIEF FLAT ON THE GROUND.

UNDER-STANDING OBJECTS

ECHOS...

FROM THEIR FORM'S

PICTURING ONE'S SURROUNDINGS WITH ECHOLOCATION

WORKS WITH THE ECHOS COMING FROM THE SURROUNDING OBJECTS.

MAKING THAT PRESENCE DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE.

USOGUI GOT REALLY CLOSE TO

AS AN "INSTANT DROP"!!

IT'S GOING TO START!! I HAVE TO TREAT THE HANDKER-CHIEF

BEEP

BEEP

IT HAS TO BE...

YOU ARE... PERFECT...

IT CAN ONLY BE THROUGH...

IF THERE IS ONLY ONE THING

ABLE TO PIERCE THROUGH THAT PERFECTION,

DONG!!

A GAMBLE...

ギュッ

……

YOU WANTED TO MAKE MY DRUG ACCUMULATE...

AS I THOUGHT, IT WASN'T YOUR NECKTIE.

RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE FACTS ONLY THE TWO OF THEM KNOW.

NOT USING THE

TACTIC WAS

KIRUMA SOUGHT'S THOUGHTS

THE ECHO-LOCATION FROM AN INSIG-NIFICANT

NOTICED

THE FACT THAT USOGUI

FLATTENED THE HANDKERCHIEF TO AVOID BEING DETEC

AND THE FACT THAT HE MADE

THAT ONLY HE KNEW.

THERE WERE ALSO FACTS

THE PATH TO ARRIVE AT THE DECISION OF MAKING THAT INSTANT CHECK WAS

SUCH AS HOW INSANELY DIFFICULT

THROUGH SUCH A NARROW THREAD-

THE FACT THAT HE GAMBLED

I FEEL THAT TODAY IS

THE FIRST TIME

I MANAGED TO BE ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU.

IF IT KEEPS GOING A LITTLE MORE,

I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THAT...

I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE IT.

THAT

THAT

...THAT

SECRET.

ANSWER.

AND

I AM CHANGING.

RIGHT NOW,

I AM TURNING INTO SOME-THING.

HE ACTUALLY ACHIEVED AN "INSTANT CHECK"...

LEADER IS ALREADY NOT EVEN HUMAN ANYMORE... JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT HE'S ALREADY REACHED HIS LIMITS...

12

9

TICK

TICK

THE 8TH ROUND, 1ST HALF, WILL BEGIN ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF 8:49:00 AM

IT'S LIKE YOUR OPPNENT KEEPS LANDING A STRIKE IN THE LAST FRAME,

WHICH MAKES YOU HAVE TO DO THE SAME AS WELL IN ORDER TO WIN.

EXACTLY.

AFTER BEING SHOWN SUCH A CRAZY TECHNIQUE... IT CANNOT BE EASY FOR HIM~

THIS IS THE EDGE OF A CLIFF...

AFTER ALL, FOR HIM,

LEFT FOR HIM ANYMORE.

THERE ARE NO SAFE STRATEGIES

HE HAS TWO CHOICES LEFT.

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO BE REVIVED.

MEANING,

USOGUI WILL NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A 3RD DEATH.

MADARAME BAKU

1 MIN

RIGHT NOW, USOGUI HAS ACCUMULATED 1 FULL MINUTE ALREADY.

MADARAME BAKU

1 MIN | 1 MIN

IT WILL THEN BECOME 2 MINUTES IF HE ADDS UP ANOTHER 1 MINUTE.

AND THEN, AFTER HE FAILS A CHECK IN THE NEXT ROUND, IT WILL BE A 3 MINUTE NEAR-DEATH WITH THE PENALTY

1 MIN | 1 MIN | PENALTY

2 MIN 33 SEC

MADARAME BAKU

5 MIN 33 SEC

5 MINUTES AND 33 SECONDS, WAY OVER THE LINE.

A TOTAL OF

PENALTY

1 2 3 4 5

2 MIN 33 SEC

1 MIN

1 MIN

MADARAME BAKU

HE WILL THEN HAVE ENOUGH OF A PROBABILITY TO BE REVIVED, AS HE WILL NOT GO OVER 5 MINUTES.

RESETTING THE CYLINDER THIS TURN THROUGH AN "INSTANT FAILED CHECK".

00:26

IN THAT CASE, HE WILL STILL HAVE SOME OPPORTUNITIES TO BE REVIVED AFTER HE FAILS IN THE NEXT TURN.

HOWEVER, THE ACCUMULATION HAS TO BE UNDER 26 SECONDS TO STAY UNDER 5 MINUTES.

ONE MORE OPTION IS A "SUCCESSFUL CHECK".

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

IT BEGAN!!

DONG!!

IT REALLY WON'T BE EASY FOR HIM... EVEN A "SUCCESSFUL CHECK" WILL END UP KILLING HIM IF HE GOES OVER THE LIMIT...

..HOWEVER, EVEN IF HE TRIED TO RESET THE CYLINDER IN THIS ROUND,

IT IS STILL DYING FOR A TOTAL OF 4 MINUTES AND 33 SECONDS ISN'T IT IMPOSSIBLE ?

IT'S GOING TO BE 8:49:00 AM.

ROT

8TH ROUND, 1ST HALF

TICK

TICK

"D" KIRUMA SOUICHI

"C" MADARAME BAKU

A "SUCCESSFUL CHECK" UNDER 26 SECONDS OF ACCUMULATION...

USOGUI IS GOING TO DO IT!!

IT'S NOT AN "INSTANT CHECK"!

TICK

TICK

START

TO BE HONEST, IN SUCH A SITUATION, THE NEXT REVIVAL WILL BE EXTREMELY HARD...

WILL USOGUI TURN AROUND AT ABOUT 30 SECONDS?

LEADER MADE AN "INSTANT DROP" AFTER CONFIRMING USOGUI WOULDN'T "INSTANT CHECK".

HE HAS TO DO IT.

EVEN SO, USOGUI WILL STILL DO IT.

00 10

TICK

TICK

00:23

AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, EVERY SECOND COUNTS.

HE HAS TO DIE FOR A THIRD TIME...

IN ORDER TO TURN THE FLOW AROUND,

00 19

TICK

TICK

FIND THE HANDKER-CHIEF

AND TO DO THAT, HE HAS TO

...

RUN OUT ALREADY?

HAS THE GAMBLER'S MAGIC

THAT SMALL CHANCE

OF DYING FOR THE 3RD TIME HAS ALREADY...

00:51

CHAPTER 518

THE DRAWER THAT DISAPPEARED

IT DOESN'T TAKE THAT LONG FOR THE DICE THAT HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THE SHADOWS TO SEE THE LIGHT AGAIN

OR FOR YOU TO COLLECT THE CARDS DEALT IN FRONT OF YOU.

AS WELL AS FOR ALL THE SYMBOLS TO STOP.

THERE ARE NO FURTHER EFFORTS THAT CAN BE MADE

UNTIL THE RESULTS ARE REVEALED

NO MATTER THE GAMBLE. THAT "MOMENT" IS ALWAYS THE SAME.

IT IS MERCILESS

AND SWEET

IT ALSO TAKES ONLY AN INSTANT TO SEE A FACE COME UP

FROM THE CORNER OF A CARD FACING DOWN.

THE CHECK IS SUCCESSFUL.

...

IT'S THE "1-MINUTE CHECK"... WHAT ABOUT THE SQUANDERED TIME..?

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

IT'S GOING TO BE 8:50:00 AM.

HE COULDN'T... TURN AROUND...

THE SITUATION MIGHT CHANGE IMPLETELY DUE TO THAT MOMENT

BUT DEPENDING ON THE WAGER

TICK

TICK

55
SECONDS.

THE
SQUANDERED
TIME IS...

U...

KU...

COMP-
LETELY

CHANGED
THE TIME
UNTIL
NOW"

THAT
MOMENT"

DERED TIME

FROM NOW ON, FAILING TO "CHECK" WILL

55 SEC

1 MIN

PEN-ALTY

MADARAME BAKU

2 MINUTES 33 SECONDS

PI LT

THE ACCUMULATION IS NOW 1 MINUTE AND 55 SECONDS

ACCUMULATION

NEAR-DEATH

ME

A TOTAL OF 2 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS OF NEAR-DEATH DRUG WILL BE INJECTED INTO HIS BODY

ALT

1 MIN

PEN-ALTY

55 SEC

2 MINUTES 33 SECONDS

MADARAME BAKU

N

NEAR-DEATH

PEN-ALTY

RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL 1 MINUTE NEAR DEATH PENALTY

55 SEC

1 MIN

ME

BAKU

5 MIN-UTES.

1 MIN

PEN-ALTY

55 SEC

GOING OVER

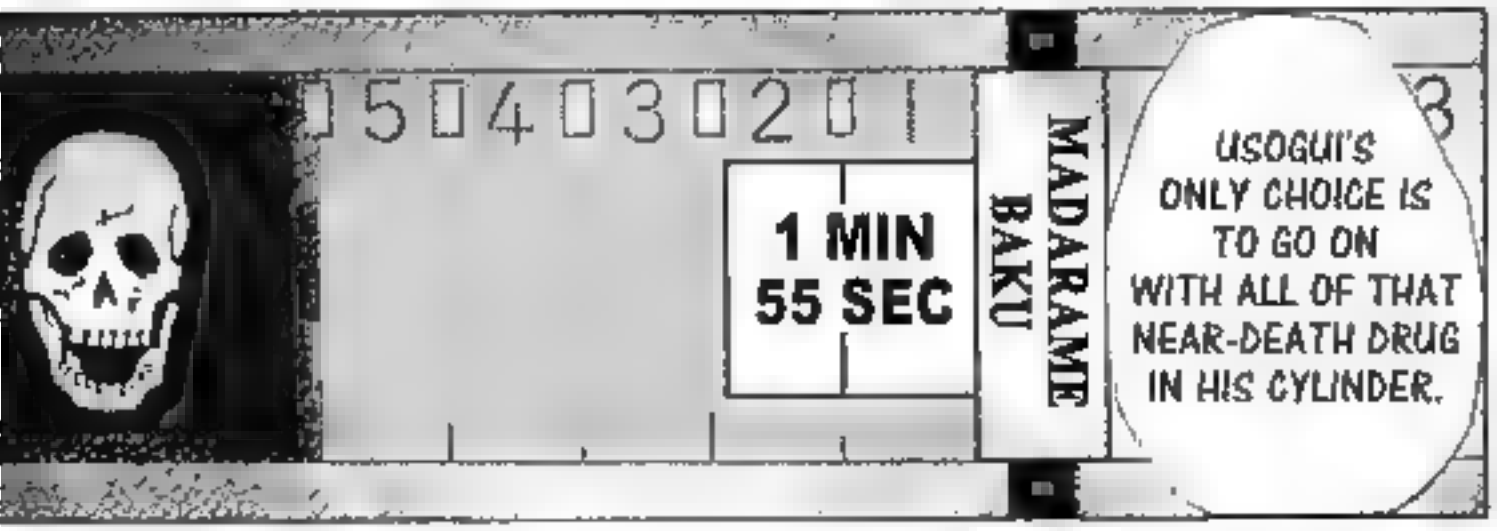
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE LUXURY TO

FAIL.

A CHECK ANYMORE.

嘘喰い㊳。

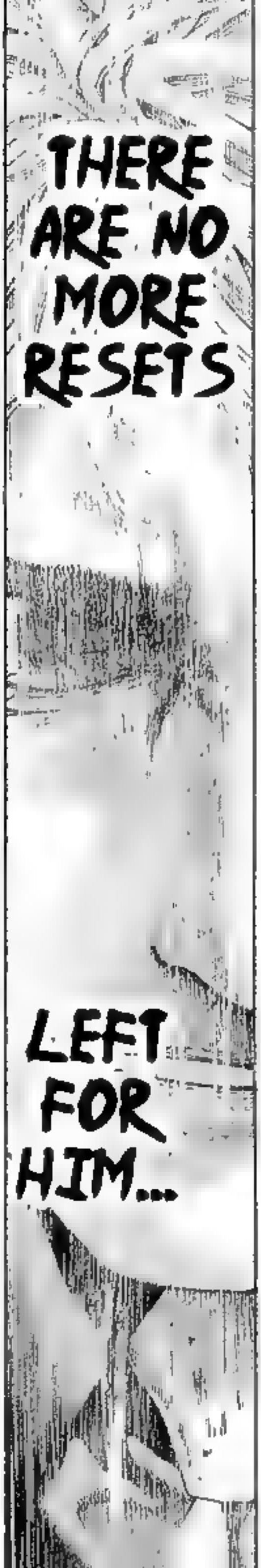
DIE ANYMORE.
HE CANNOT


1 MIN 55 SEC
MADARAME BAKU
USOGUI'S ONLY CHOICE IS TO GO ON WITH ALL OF THAT NEAR-DEATH DRUG IN HIS CYLINDER.

LEADER DROPPED THE HANDKERCHIEF AT 5 SECONDS... HE SURPASSED USOGUI'S EXPECTATIONS ...
ALL OF THEM NOW BELIEVE...
CHECK-MATE...

UNDER-STANDS THE IMPLICA TIONS.

EVERYONE PRESENT IN THE ROOM
PAT


THERE ARE NO MORE RESETS
LEFT FOR HIM...

YOU THINK YOU'VE WON ALREADY?

YOU FINALLY REALIZED YOU LOST?

THE 2ND HALF OF THE 8TH ROUND WILL BEGIN AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF 8:51:00 AM.

ECHO-LOCATION ...?

NOT YET NOT YET NOT YET NOT YET!!

NOT YET...

YOU CAN'T USE YOUR ECHOLOCATION ANYMORE.... YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, DON'T YOU?

YOU ARE ALREADY DEAD.

BUT, THOSE AREN'T THE MOST IMPORTANT MOTIVATIONS.

A DESIRE FOR THRILLS. A HUNGER FOR VICTORY ANYTHING OTHER THAN THOSE

DO YOU REMEMBER THE WORDS YOU SPOKE AT THAT TIME?

SWINGING FROM JOY TO SORROW,

BETTING YOUR ENTIRE LIFE, WHICH PALES IN COMPARISON TO THE ECSTASY OF THAT ONE MOMENT,

DESTROYING YOURSELF.

THAT'S WHAT A GAMBLER IS.

IN THIS

SO, WHAT NOW?

MOMENT RIGHT NOW,

DO YOU FEEL THRILLED?

IS NOT NECESSARY IN GAMBLING!

EVEN HARDER TO SAVE.

YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE MASSES.

I AM

NOT YOUR ENEMY.

YOU'RE INSANE.

AN EXISTENCE THAT LIVES COMPLEMENTARY TO GAMBLERS.

FROM THE START, WE ARE

WE...

FROM THE LIKES OF YOU CRAZY GAMBLERS AS FOOD,

AS LONG AS WE ARE ABLE TO GATHER

OUR VITALITY

I...

WILL KEEP ON EXISTING.

I KNOW...

WE

WE'RE NOT A DECENT BUNCH...

ALWAYS WANTING, ALWAYS IN PURSUIT...

ARE NOTHING MORE THAN IMBECILES

EVEN IF WE WANT IT,

WE NEVER GRASP IT...

THE THINGS THAT CAN TAKE ME DOWN ARE NOT "ANOMALIES" LIKE YOU.

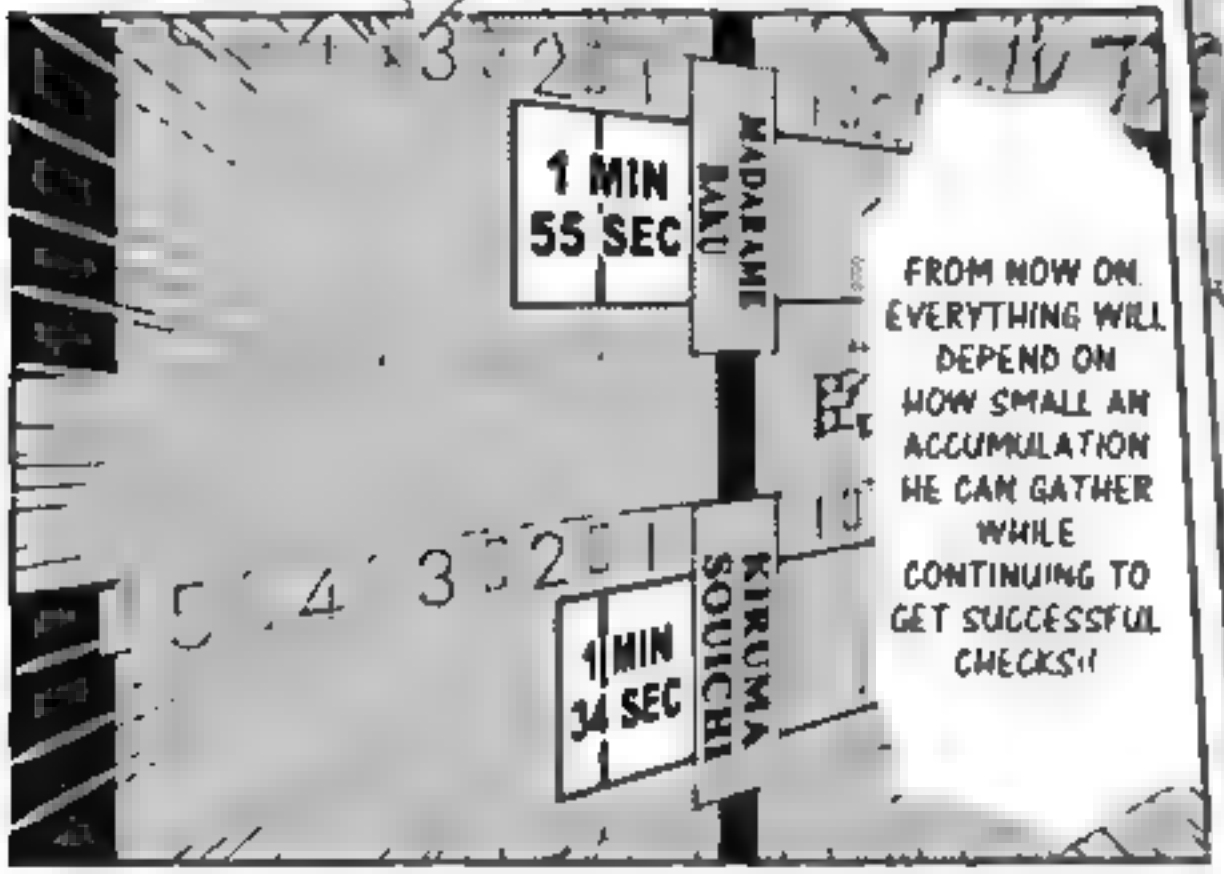
YOU GAMBLERS WERE ALL MADE TO SELF-DESTRUCT FROM THE BEGINNING.

HIS ONLY CHOICE IS TO KEEP SUCCEEDING HIS "CHECK"!

HE'S ON THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!

INDEED, THERE IS NO MORE RETREAT!

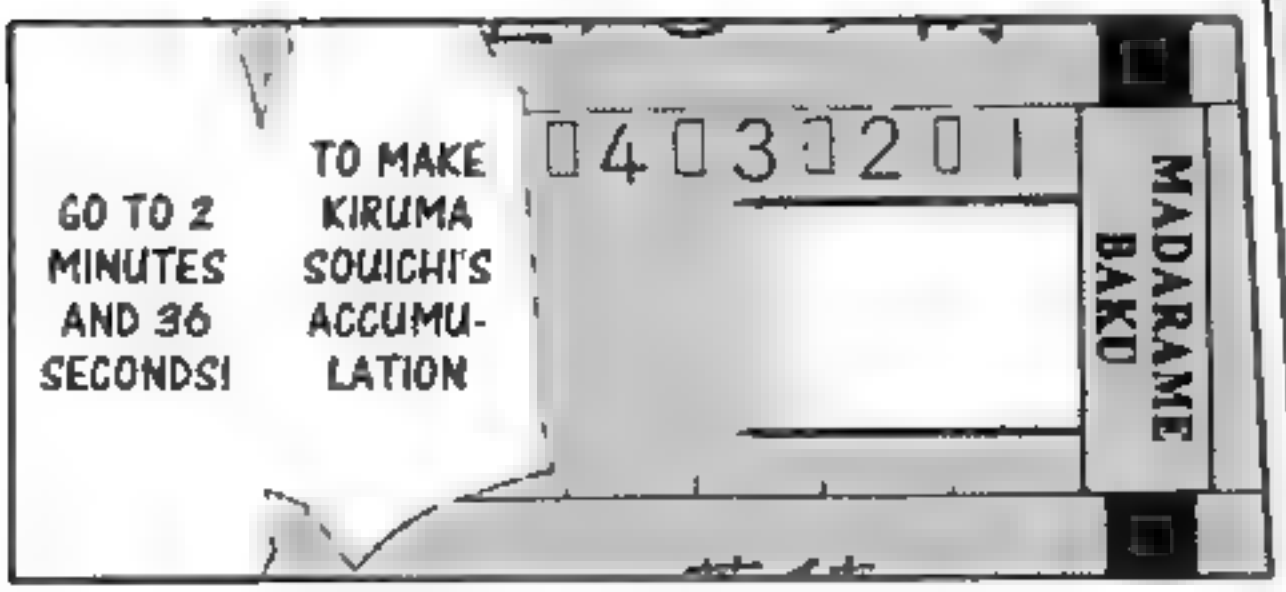
THAT IS WHY WE ARE GAMBLING!!


1 MIN 55 SEC
MADARAME BAKU
1 MIN 34 SEC
KIRUMA SOUICHI
FROM NOW ON EVERYTHING WILL DEPEND ON HOW SMALL AN ACCUMULATION HE CAN GATHER WHILE CONTINUING TO GET SUCCESSFUL CHECKS!!

HIS GOAL IS...

AND

THAT'S RIGHT



NEAR-DEATH

IT WILL REACH 5 MINUTES AND KILL HIM!!

2 3 4 5

2 MIN 36 SEC

PEN-ALTY

NEAR-DEATH

2 3 4 5

2 MIN 36 SEC

PEN-ALTY

THAT'S HIS DEADLINE. BY DOING SO,

THEIR ACCUMULATIONS ARE NOT THAT DIFFERENT, HOWEVER, TO HAVE LEADER'S ACCUMULATION GO OVER 2 MINUTES AND 36 SECONDS,

INDEED, AT FIRST GLANCE,

BAKU-SAN STILL HAS A DECENT CHANCE TO WIN IF HE CAN HOLD UP UNTIL KIRUMA SOUICHI'S ACCUMULATION REACHES 2 MINUTES AND 36 SECONDS!!

THIS ONE IS ALSO FOOD FOR OUR FUTURE...

SELF-DESTRUCTING FOOD WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME OUR OFFERING.

YOU CAN DO IT, BAKU-SAN ..

RIGHT? I KNOW YOU CAN.

EASIER SAID THAN DONE~

WILL TAKE AT LEAST TWO ROUNDS, WHILE USOGUI'S ALREADY OVER HIS LIMIT...

HE'S BEEN ACHIEVING MIRACLES UNTIL NOW!!

IF IT'S THAT MAN, HE CAN DO IT!!

IT'S FEASIBLE FOR BAKU-SAN!!

I VOTE FOR USOGUI.

!?

ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU MAKE YOUR DECISION WHEN CHOOSING ODD OR EVEN IN A DICE-GAME?

SO IT'S BASED ON YOUR "INSTINCT"? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S FOOLISH.

WHAT A

WHY... ON WHAT BASIS?

...

FOOLISH REFEREE.

THE ONLY CHEAP WORDS HERE ARE YOUR PROVOCATIONS. HONESTLY, I CANNOT UNDERSTAND ANYTHING GOING ON IN YOUR HEADS.

FOR WHAT? IT'S MEANING-LESS.

YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE IF YOU WANT TO.

HOW ABOUT YOU TRY TO BET AGAINST MY FOOLISH-NESS?

THE REFEREE CALLING ME "FOOLISH".

CHEAP WORDS THAT CANNOT EVEN WITHSTAND A BET — WE REALLY ARE DIFFERENT FROM ALL OF YOU REFEREES.

AVOIDING TO BET ON YOUR BELIEFS WHILE CALLING OTHERS FOOLS.

KO KO...

IN OTHER WORDS,

WE GAMBLERS DEFINITELY SEEM TO LIVE IN ANOTHER DIMENSION THAT NO ONE SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND.

INDEED.

ISN'T NECESSARILY WRONG .. I HAVE FORESEEN THAT THIS ROUND WILL ACTUALLY DECIDE HOW THIS DEATH MATCH WILL END.

THE PATH TO WINNING THAT GUY HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT.

YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO WIN IN MIND GAMES AGAINST SOMEONE YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

WASTE ALL THE ADVANTAGES HE'S GAINED WITHOUT DOUBTING HIS "INSTINCT" OF BELIEVING THAT HE'S TAKEN THE UPPER HAND...

IT WILL ALL DEPEND ON WHETHER KIRUMA WILL

"C"
KIRUMA
SOICHI

8TH
ROUND,
2ND
HALF

"D"
MADA-
RAME
BAKU

IT WILL
ALL BE
DECIDED
IN THIS
"MOMENT"

"CHECK"
.....

DONG!!

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

THE ADVAN-TAGES YOU GAINED?

HOW DO YOU MAKE GOOD USE OF

KILL YOUR ENEMY...?

HOW DO YOU

CHAPTER 519

AFTER DELIBERATION

"CHECK"

FAILED!!

HE'S GOING TO TAKE THE NEAR-DEATH PENALTY.

!!

FAILED !!

WAS A MISTAKE.

THE "INSTANT CHECK"

...

...

...

NEAR-DEATH

1 2 3 4 5

KIRIMA SOUICHI

1 MIN (PENALTY)

1 MIN

34 SEC

THE 1 MINUTE PENALTY,

IT'S A TOTAL OF 2 MINUTES AND 34 SECONDS!!

I HAVE NO REGRETS.

THIS WAS A DECISION MADE AFTER DELIBERATION

WHEN FACING "USOGUI", MADARAME BAKU,

A SMALL SHADOW WHICH WASN'T NOTICED BY ANYONE

...

HAS BEEN ILLUMINATED

HE WENT TOO FAR!! HE MISJUDGED THE TIMING TO USE THE "SAFE STRATEGY"!!

A SELF DESTRUC-TION!!

A "FAILED CHECK"...

4 0.4

SHORT INTERVAL,

DURING THIS

4 0.4

IF I TRY TO AVOID THE RISKS RIGHT NOW, I WILL BE KILLED.

I HAVEN'T WON THIS MATCH YET.

AGAINST USOGUI!?

TO HAVE A BATTLE OF RESILIENCE THROUGH THE CYLINDERS

DON'T TELL ME... EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,

LEADER STILL HASN'T CHOSEN

HE PURPOSE-FULLY FAILED TO "CHECK" ...

AND IS GOING TO PAY THE PRICE OF NEAR-DEATH.

ANDERED TIME

ACCUMULATION

MADARAME BAKU

KIRUMA SOUICHI

AND RESET HIS CYLINDER AGAIN!!

AND MADE THE GAP BETWEEN USOGUI AND HIMSELF EVEN BIGGER!?

IN SUCH A SITUATION, HE STILL CHOSE TO BEAR THE MASSIVE RISK OF NEAR-DEATH,

THE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THE SITUATION IS, THE MORE YOUR "INSTINCT" WANTS TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

IF THIS RESET SUCCEEDS, IT WILL BE A NIGHTMARE FOR USOGUI!!

KIRUMA "BROKE" THAT INSTINCT!! HE DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE!!

2 MINUTES AND 32 SECONDS.

THE DURATION IS

O

YES?

REFEREE YAKOU...

IT WILL BE A TOTAL OF 3 MINUTES AND 58 SECONDS!

WITH THIS, LEADER'S DURATION WILL EXCEED USOGUI'S.

RIGHT NOW, THE TOTAL DURATION OF USOGUI'S NEAR-DEATH IS 2 MINUTES AND 33 SECONDS.

IN ORDER TO

MAKE HIS VICTORY EVEN MORE SOLID!!

LEADER CHOSE TO GAMBLE

MADARAME BAKU

BET YOUR HOPE ON THIS OPPOR TUNITY.

10

HAS DIED.

LEADER

VICTORY WILL BE MINE.

IF I CAN COME BACK,

TICK TICK

12 3 6 9

TICK

TICK

NEITHER THE AFTERWORLD NOR SOULS EXIST!!

WILL YOU STOP?

WE SHOULD ASK HIM AFTER THIS MATCH ENDS.

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF AFTERWORLD LEADER IS SEEING RIGHT NOW.

ARE YOU STUPID!?

WHAT YOU SAID IS UNSCIEN-TIFIC AND ILLOGICAL!!

SOULS DO EXIST... BECAUSE YOU EXPERIENCE BIZARRE THINGS AFTER YOU DIE AND YOUR SOUL LEAVES YOUR BODY!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID EARLIER? THOSE "SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA" ARE ALL FAKE!

NO, THAT'S WRONG!!

EXIST AFTER THE BODY IS FORMED.

OR DOES THE EXISTENCE OF CONSCIOUSNESS CREATE THE BODY?

WHICH ONE IS IT DO YOU THINK?

I'M TALKING ABOUT A HUMAN'S EGO AND PERSONALITY... DOES HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS...

A HALLUCINATION IN MY BRAIN...

IS THIS... A HALLUCINATION?

DOES OUR CONSCIOUSNESS PRECEDE OUR PHYSICAL BODY OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND?

REFEREE KADOKURA,

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

?

NO MATTER WHICH ANSWER YOU TAKE,

IT SEEMS TO BE A "SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENON" SO YOU DON'T DARE TO CHOOSE, HUH?

THEN LET ME REVISE THE QUESTION FOR YOU.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

KO KO KO

WELL... THAT IS...

AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE?

WHAT EXISTS

ARE FULL OF UNCERTAIN-TIES.

THE LIVES OF HUMANS TOO

THE UNIVERSE EXISTS.

BUT IT IS STILL FILLED WITH UNCERTAIN AND UNKNOWN THINGS TO THIS DAY

"THINGS THAT ARE UNKNOWN" AND "THINGS THAT DON'T EXIST" ARE NOT THE SAME.

AND THAT WAY OF THINKING MATCHES PERFECTLY WITH LOTS OF FACTS...

WHERE DOES CONSCIOUSNESS COME FROM AND WHERE DOES IT GO?

EVEN CON-SCIOUS-NESSES WILL GO SOMEWHERE AFTER THEY DIE, INSTEAD OF DISAPPEARING...

EVERYTHING TRANSFORMS AND WANDERS IN THIS WORLD WITH THE SAME MASS.

INSTEAD OF DISAPPEARING,

JUST LIKE HOW WATER BECOMES WATER VAPOR

FU FU FU

HOW STUPID.

IT'S NOTHING BUT A DEVIL'S PROOF.

I CAN SAY "INSISTING THAT SOMETHING DOES NOT EXIST" IS UNSCIENTIFIC AND ILLOGICAL.

OUR BRAIN WILL BLINDLY AND SIMPLY FIND THE MOST SUITABLE ANSWER.

IN ORDER TO AVOID BURDEN,

WHEN PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO COMPREHEND THE UNKNOWN OR THINGS THAT ARE HARD TO UNDERSTAND, THEY'LL INADVERTENTLY STOP THEMSELVES

THE "COGNITIVE LOAD".

IT'S CALLED

HAVE YOU NOTICED IT YET?

NICE TO MEET YOU, SOUICHI.

WHAT A SHAME~

THE CRISIS

THAT IS AWAITING AHEAD.

THE CRISIS THAT'S AWAITING AHEAD?

THIS CRISIS IS ALSO ONE OF THE MANY THINGS IMPLANTED INSIDE YOUR BODY

INDEED.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME,

THAT THING WAS CARVED INSIDE YOU.

YOU GAINED GREAT POWER,

BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID,

CHAPTER 520
THE APPROACHING CRISIS

PEOPLE CLIMB TOWARDS

THE HIGHEST SUMMIT OF ALL.

AND WHEN THEY REACH THE TOP,

IT'S THE SAME WITH EVERYONE, NO EXCEPTIONS.

TREMBLE REFLEXIVELY.

THEIR LEGS WILL

...
CLICK
CLICK

THIS PLACE IS...

HAL, AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ME

AND THAT GUY IN THE BLACK SUIT OR THOSE MEN?

SLAM

I CAN SEE THAT THOSE GUYS ARE NOT NORMAL,

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT INTERESTED AT ALL

HM~

BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THEM SO MUCH THAT I'D HAVE TO ASK FOR MYSELF WITHOUT YOU TELLING ME FIRST

THE PRINCE SENT THE SIGNAL UNDER THE ANTHILL TOWER NEXT TO 6 TREES.

IT WAS THE ASSIGNED PLACE WHERE HE AND THE OLD BUTLER BEE AGREED TO MEET

THE PRINCE SENT THE SIGNAL UNDER THE ANTHILL TOWER NEXT TO 6 TREES

IT WAS THE ASSIGNED PLACE WHERE HE AND THE OLD BUTLER BEE AGREED TO MEET

WITHOUT LETTING ANYONE NOTICE.

PLEASE COME TO MY PLACE

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR MEMORY AGAIN SOME DAY, AND IF I'M NOT AROUND YOU AT THAT TIME,

AND THE LOCATION OF THE MEETING, INTO THE BOOK.

I'LL PUT THE MESSAGE, WHICH INCLUDES THE TIME

WHY WOULD I...

EBA...

POP

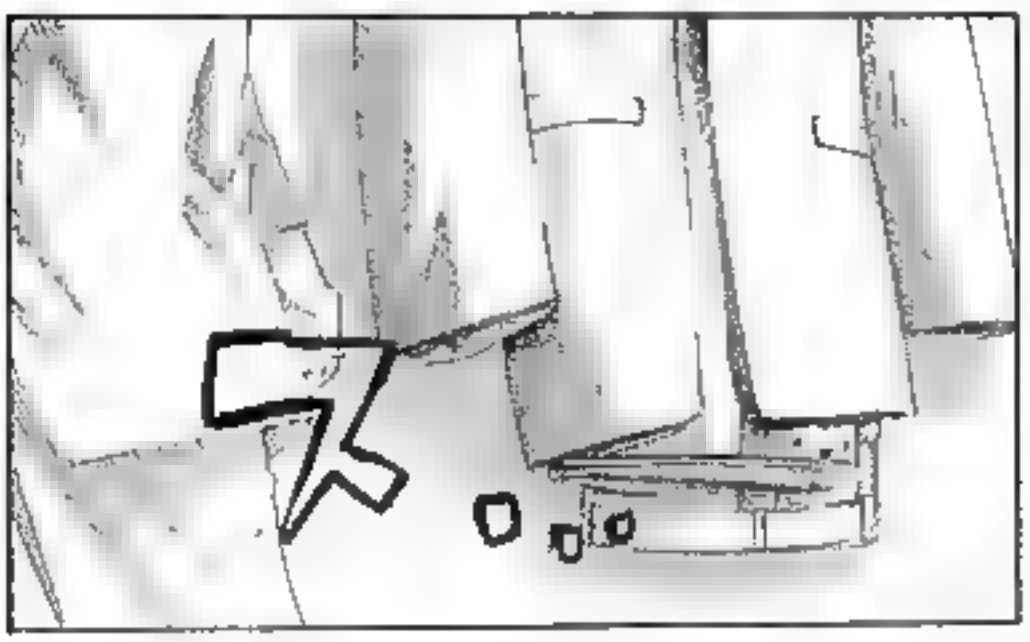
COME TO THIS PLACE AGAIN...?

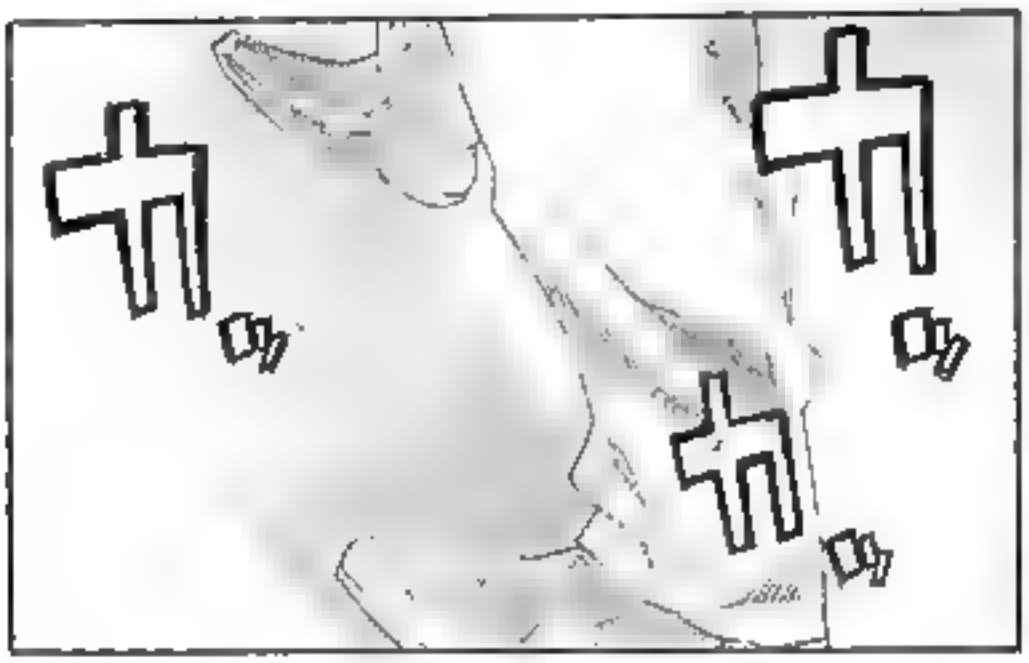
OPEN

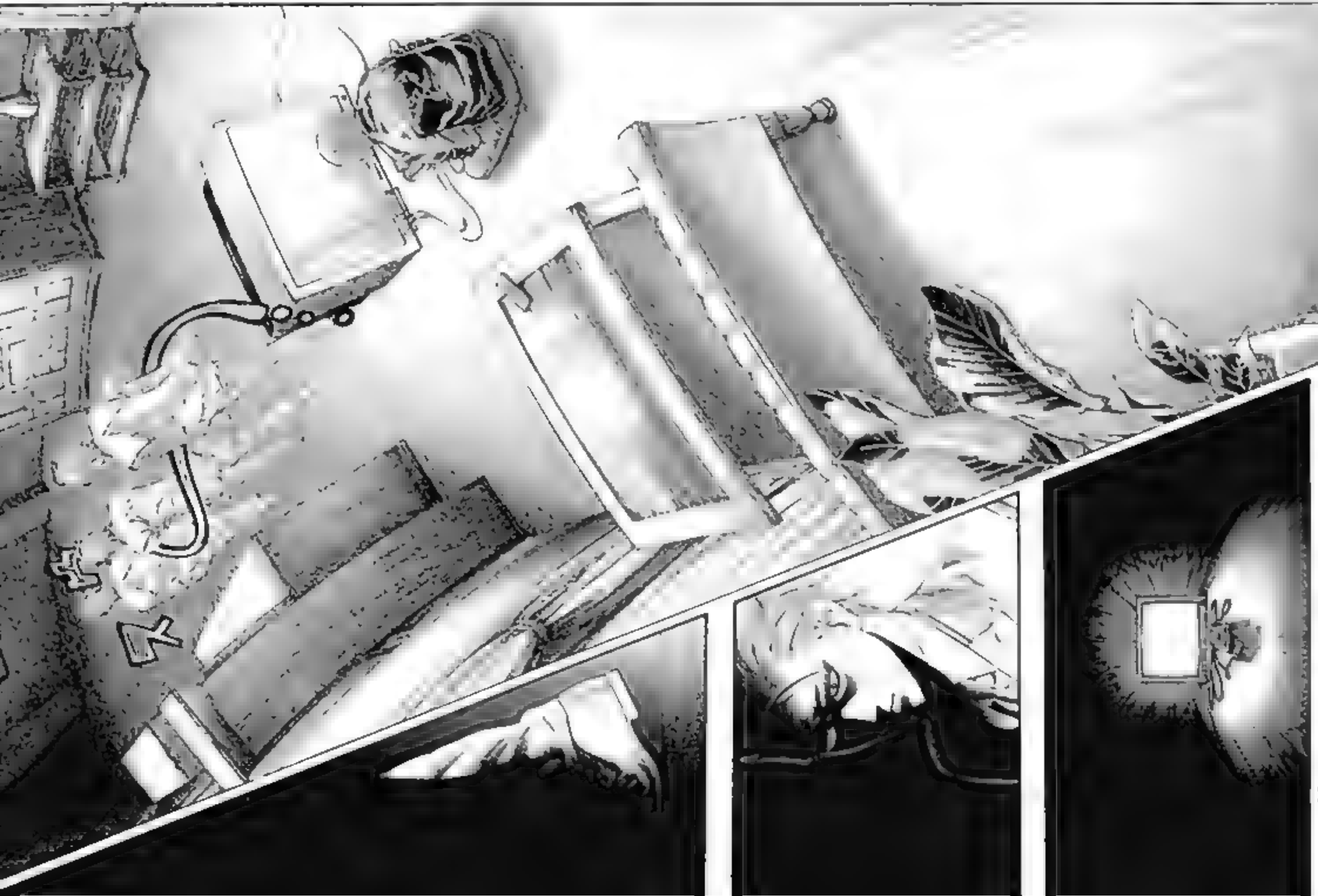
FEELS LONG, DOESN'T IT?

JUST NOW, THE TIME BEFORE USOGUI TURNED HIS HEAD...

THE PASSING OF TIME FEELS DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION.







YOU HAVE REACHED IT.

THE ONLY THING LEFT

IS TO PICK IT UP.

SOU-ICHI,

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

YOU

LIAR.

YOU WERE PERFECT...

HOWEVER, PEOPLE CAN'T KEEP THEIR IDEAL FORMS FOREVER...

REVIVED
!!

AAAA

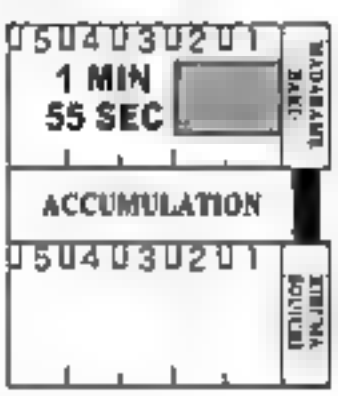
THE SITU-ATION RIGHT NOW,

IS LIKE USOGUI HAS FALLEN DOWN FROM THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF.

THE 9TH ROUND, 1ST HALF,

NOW.

WILL START AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF 8:57:00 AM.



WITH THIS, IN TERMS OF THE ACCUMULATION, IT'S 1 MINUTE AND 55 SECONDS VS 0 SECONDS.

IT'S OVER...

UNLESS THERE'S A MIRACLE.

YOU'VE REACHED THE ANSWER, BUT YOU'VE RUN OUT OF TIME.

THAT WAS CAUSED BY ANOTHER EFFECT. THAT WAS CAUSED BY ANOTHER.

IS CAUSED BY ANOTHER EFFECT,

EVERY EFFECT

MIRACLES DO NOT HAPPEN.

AND THAT'S THE CRISIS AWAITING AHEAD OF YOU.

YOU ARE GOING TO LOSE IT.

ANNOUNCE-MENT?

9TH ROUND?

...

I WILL JUDGE THIS AS LEADER'S LOSS.

IF THE GAME CAN'T BE CARRIED ON,

...

I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE HEARD BY OUTSIDERS ..... ARE THESE PEOPLE ALL DEAD?

SINCE WE'RE BOTH LEADER'S ATTENDANTS, **ALSO,**

AFTER ALL, IT'S ONE OF KAKEROU'S TABOOS THAT ONLY A FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT.

THANK YOU FOR COMING, YAKOU JOUICHI.

I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW YOU'VE BEEN... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINE

AND I'M HERE TO INVITE YOU TO LISTEN TO "SURPASSING THE LEADER" WITH ME...

HOW LONG WERE THE INTERVALS?

IT'S THE SAME... ABOUT ONCE A MONTH.

MEANING, NORMALLY, IT SHOULD BE ONCE A MONTH.

IT'S GETTING HARDER TO KEEP IT UP... ONCE A MONTH

AND THE INTERVALS WERE ABOUT ONCE A MONTH WHAT ABOUT THE LOSSES BEFORE THE "MASSIVE LOSS" THAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU WERE LEADER'S ATTENDANT?

WHEN I WAS LEADER'S ATTENDANT, THE AMOUNT OF MEMORY LEADER LOST HAD BEEN GRADUALLY INCREASING WITH TIME.

*CH 64, P.16 (THE OLD TRANSLATION DOSN'T MATCH THE PLOT SO WE CORRECTED IT, THE JAPANESE IS THE SAME.)

IF LEADER LOSES HIS MEMORY DURING "SURPASSING THE LEADER", I'M AFRAID LEADER WILL RUN AWAY AND CONCEAL HIS TRACES, JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT TIME.

1 MONTH.

NAN OU!

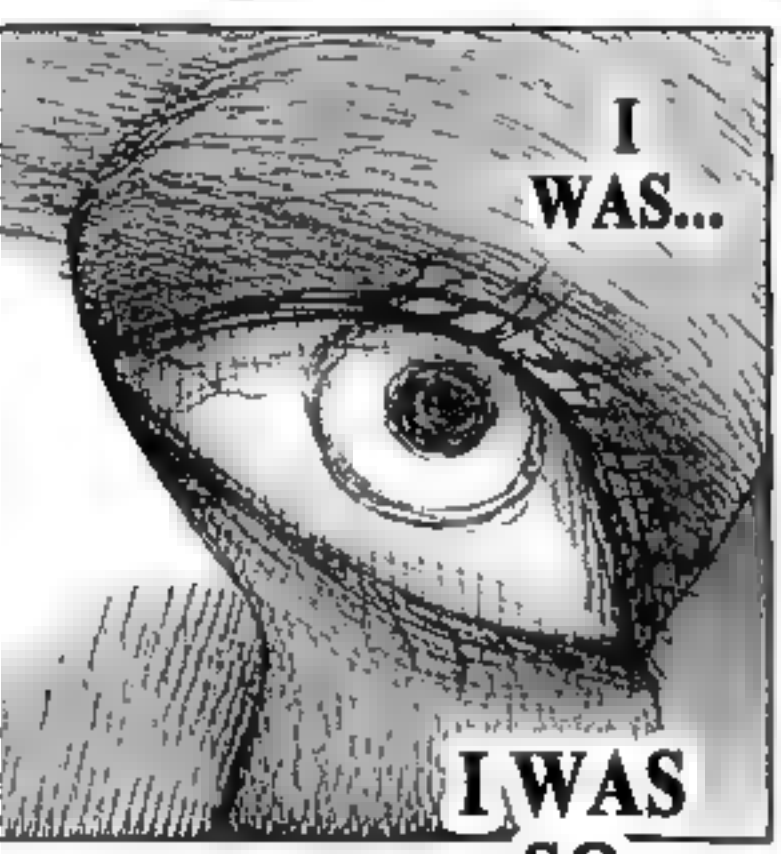
COME WITH ME!! WE RE GOING TO CATCH LEADER!

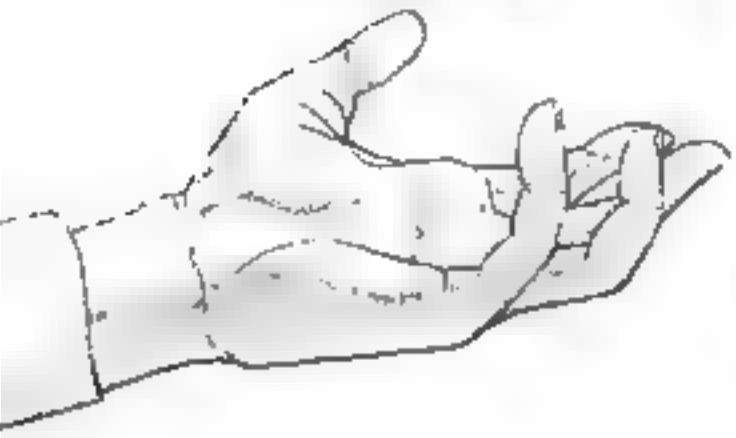
AND FROM THAT DAY UNTIL NOW, IT HAS BEEN

*CH270, P.11

LEADER...

WHICH MEANS, LEADER WILL LOSE.

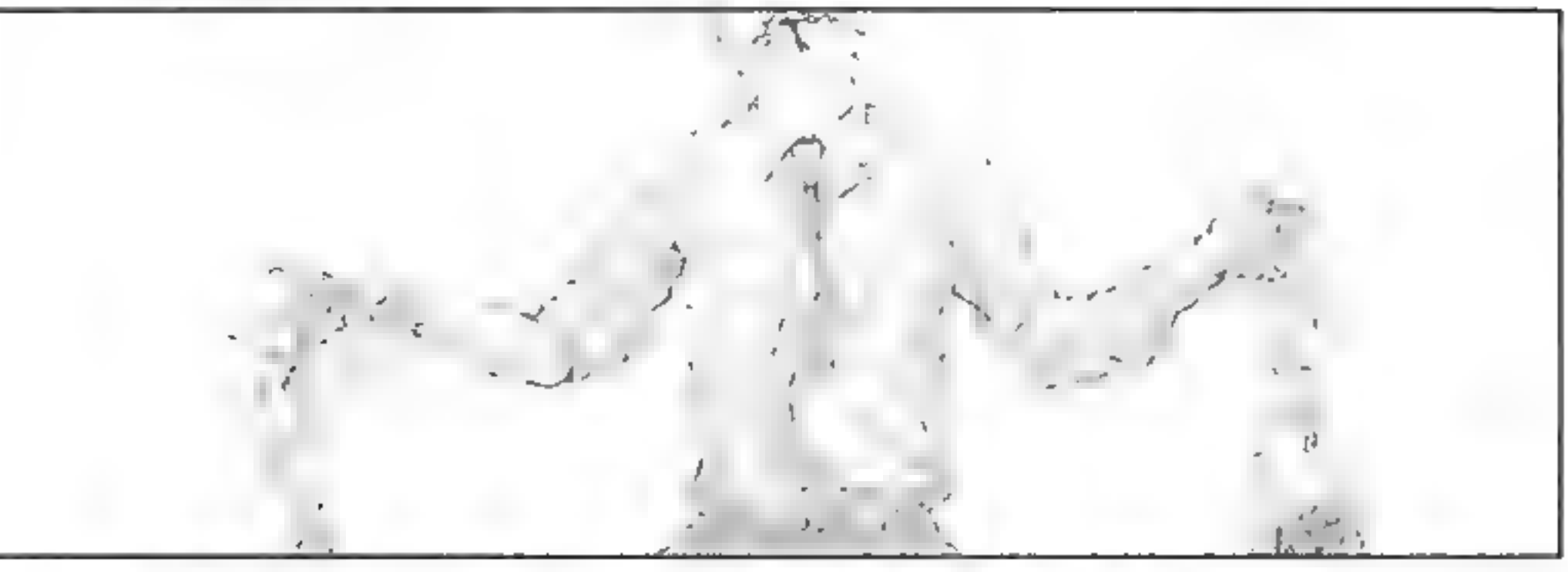




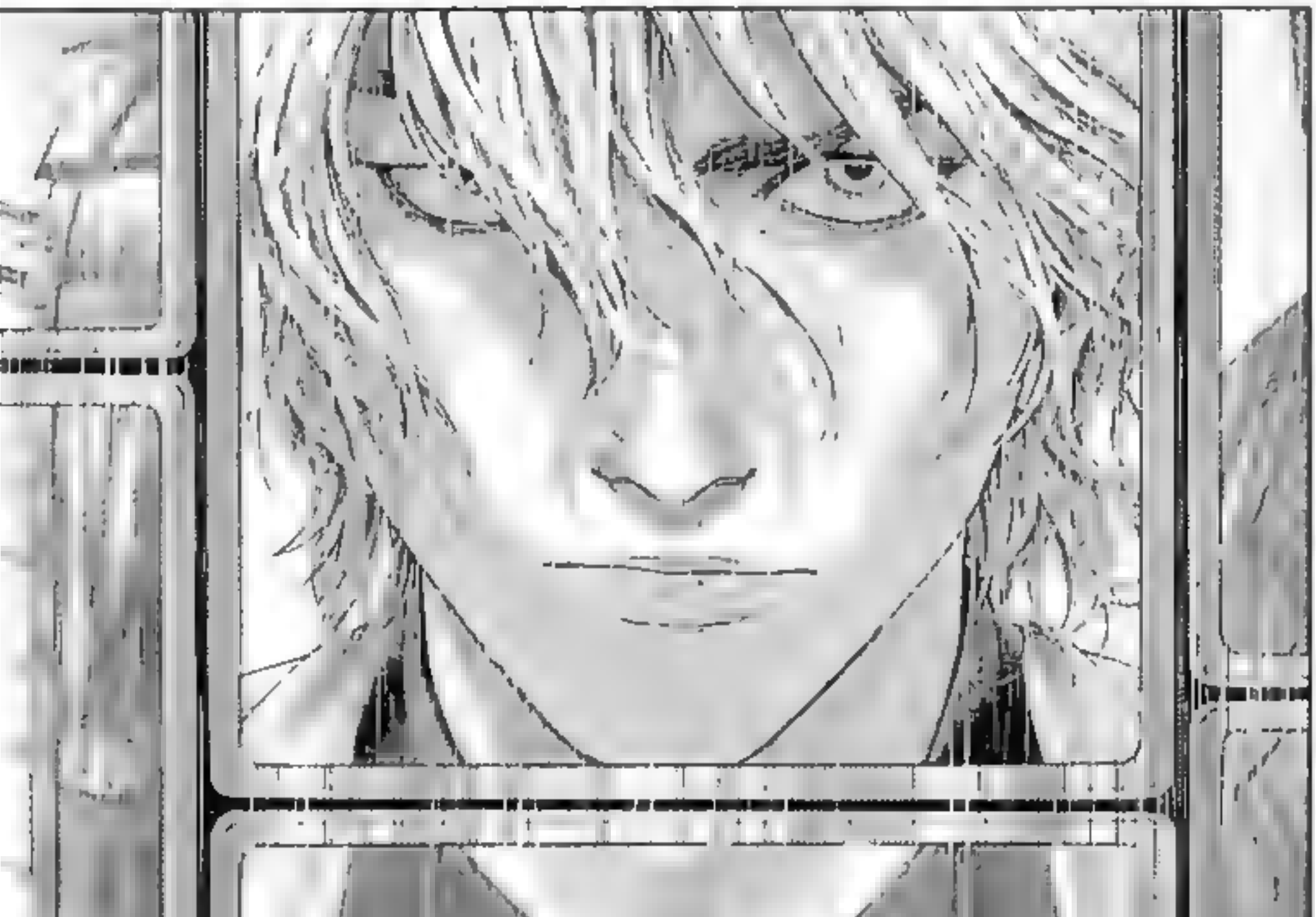
I'LL END UP LOSING IF THIS GOES ON...

CHAPTER 521

TO THAT PLACE



DISAP-
PEAR...
I'M
GOING
TO...



WHERE IS EBA

EBA...

CHAPTER 521

TO THAT PLACE

SURPASSING THE LEADER.

...

.....

LEADER... JUST BEFORE YOU TOOK THE NEAR-DEATH THIS TIME, YOU...

YOU ARE IN RIGHT NOW.

THIS IS THE SITUATION

THEN, I WILL INJECT THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG.

...YES?

REFEREE YAKOU...

THE DURATION IS 2 MINUTES AND 34 SECONDS.

I AM RELIEVED.

THAT WOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE AT ALL.

NO,

FROM A REFEREE'S POINT OF VIEW, WOULD THAT BE AN ACTION THAT WOULD INFLUENCE THE RESULT OF THIS MATCH?

AND REMIND ME OF EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED IN THIS GAME UNTIL NOW.

IF YOU EXPLAIN TO ME THE RULES OF THIS SURPASSING THE LEADER,

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN THE GAME TO ME AS MUCH AS YOU CAN WITHOUT BREAKING THE RULES.

OR LOOKING AT MY SURROUNDINGS IN CONFUSION,

AFTER WAKING UP, IF YOU SEE ME STAYING SILENT WITHOUT RESPONDING FOR A FEW SECONDS,

THE GAME IS "DROPPING THE HANDKERCHIEF".

LEADER, YOU ENDED UP DYING BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T FIND THE HANDKERCHIEF.

IF I MAY ADD SOMETHING,

GIVE ME SOME HELP TO CLEAR THE MUDDINESS OF MY CONSCIOUS-NESS.

JUST LIKE WHAT YOU DID AFTER MY FIRST REVIVAL,

DON'T... DON'T TELL ME... IT'S THE ONCE-A-MONTH...

!!

THE RULES ARE..... AND EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED IN THIS GAME UNTIL NOW.....

YOUR LONG-STANDING RIVAL

THAT YOU'RE MEANT TO DEFEAT!!

YOUR OPPONENT IS MADARAME BAKU.

MADARA-ME BAKU...

AND,

SURPASS-ING THE LEADER...

REFEREE YAKOU.

THAT'S ENOUGH,

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

I'M GLAD I DIDN'T LOSE

OVER-CAME IT ON HIS OWN.

HE ...

AND THE NEAR-DEATH THIS TIME...

HE BET ON ME,

RATHER THAN BECOMING A BROKEN DOLL DUE TO A SUDDEN MEMORY LOSS,

LEADER PREDICTED THAT HE'D END UP LOSING HIS MEMORY WITH THIS NEAR-DEATH...

NOW,

I AM BACK.

WITHOUT SENDING A GODSENT GIFT TO USOGUI.

LET'S
END THIS,
BAKU-SAN.

IDIOT.

I'LL MAKE A COMEBACK.

I CAN SEE IT.

AT THIS POINT ... THESE TWO... HOW WONDER-FUL... ...

AFTER GOING THROUGH SO MUCH, THEY FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE ENDGAME.

I CAN SEE THAT PLACE.

9TH ROUND, 1ST HALF

CANNOT FAIL TO CHECK ANYMORE.

HE

CHAPTER 522
CONVICTION

TICK

TICK

THERE IS SOMETHING THAT HAS CHANGED.

HOW-EVER,

KEEPS ON MOVING FORWARD WITHOUT CHANGE SINCE THE BEGINNING.

TIME

EVEN A SIMPLE GAME OF ROCK PAPER SCISSORS WILL NOT BE THE SAME DEPENDING ON WHETHER

HOWEVER, THE MEANING OF THE GAME CAN DIFFER GREATLY FROM ONE GAME TO ANOTHER. EVEN IF THE CONTENT IS THE SAME.

IT'S A BIG DIFFERENCE.

IS BET ON IT.

OR 1,000,000 YEN

10,000 YEN

100 YEN

THE ACTION ITSELF DIDN'T CHANGE.

"DROP-PING THE HAND-KER-CHIEF".

SUCH A SITUATION WHERE ONE WILL BE SWINGING BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR HAS NOW DISAPPEARED.

"WILL THE REVIVAL SUCCEED?

OR FAIL?"

MEANING,

HIS NEAR-DEATH TIME WILL BE OVER 5 MINUTES.

THE NEXT TIME USOGUI FAILS TO FIND THE HANDKER-CHIEF,

THERE'S NO REVIVAL LEFT FOR HIM ANYMORE!

THE CURTAIN WILL BE CLOSED ON HIS TALE!

THE ENDGAME.

A GAME WHERE NO MISTAKES ARE ALLOWED ANYMORE.

EVERYTHING WILL DEPEND ONLY ON WHETHER THE HANDKERCHIEF IS THERE OR NOT WHEN HE TURNS AROUND.

IT'S NOW SIMPLE.

THE ENDGAME'S END-GAME!!

WELL, IT WAS THE ENDGAME SINCE THE START

IT SEEMS CONTRADICTORY BUT FROM NOW ON IT REALLY IS

"LIFE" OR "DEATH".

1 MIN

THE HANDKERCHIEF HAS TO BE DROPPED DURING THE 1 MINUTE, SO TURNING AROUND AT EXACTLY 1 MINUTE

IS A SAFE STRATEGY THAT WILL 100% FIND THE HANDKERCHIEF!!

"C" HAS ONLY

TWO CHOICES TO MAKE, AS ALWAYS.

THE "CHALLENGE CHECK" OR THE "1-MINUTE CHECK".

THE "CHALLENGE CHECK"

WHERE "C" CHALLENGES READING "D'S" TIMING IN DROPPING THE HANDKERCHIEF.

AND THEN

TICK

TICK

THE GAME WILL SOON START.

IT'S GOING TO BE 8.57:00 A.M.

THE CLIFF WILL END UP CRUMBLING IF HE STAYS HERE LONGER WITHOUT MOVING.

SURROUNDED BY DARKNESS...

RIGHT NOW,

USOGUI IS STANDING ON A FRAGILE CLIFF

IN HELL.

AND HE'LL END UP ENGULFED

IN ORDER TO WIN,

HE HAS TO MAKE A "CHALLENGE CHECK",

OR ELSE, HE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CATCH THE LIFELINE HIDDEN WITHIN!

TO STAY AFLOAT EVEN IF FOR ONLY ANOTHER INSTANT!! USOGUI WILL HAVE TO TAKE A LEAP IN THE DARKNESS!!

IN A RESILIENCE FIGHT INVOLVING USING THE SAFE STRATEGY...

"I'LL LOSE IF I DON'T BET".

KIRUMA SOUICHI, ACCUMULATION, 0 SECONDS

MADARAME BAKU, ACCUMULATION, 1 MINUTE AND 55 SECONDS

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO "BET".

THERE'S NO PATH WHERE I END UP WINNING

I'LL LOSE IF I DON'T.

HAVE TO AVOID THAT.

I...

WAITING FOR MY SELF DESTRUC-TION.

AND YOU KNOW THAT, SO YOU WILL BE

EXCEEDS 5 MINUTES THE END ⇐	CHECK FAILED	CHALLENGE CHECK
ACCUMULATION FROM 1 TO 59 SECONDS	CHECK SUCCEEDED	
ACCUMULATION FROM 1 TO 60 SECONDS	CHECK SUCCEEDED	SAFE CHECK

USOGUI NOW HAS TWO CHOICES LEFT "CHALLENGE CHECK" OR "SAFE CHECK".

AND THERE ARE 3 RESULTS THAT COULD OCCUR FROM THESE TWO CHOICES.

BEEP

BEEP

DONG!!

GAMBLE...

!

THEREFORE, MOVING FORWARD AND MAKING A "CHALLENGE CHECK" REALLY IS A...

"C"
MADARA-ME BAKU

9TH ROUND, 1ST HALF

HIS CHECK HAS TO BE SUCCESS-FUL.

IT'S WHAT HE MUST PRIORITIZE BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE RIGHT NOW.

"D"
KIRUMA SOUICHI

CHAPTER 522
CONVICTION

THE SQUANDERED TIME HAS STARTED COUNTING!!

HE DROPPED THE HANDKERCHIEF AT THE BEGINNING!!?

READER IS TRYING TO ACCUMULATE

USOGUI'S NEAR-DEATH DRUG!!

HE... HE ABANDONED BAITING USOGUI INTO SELF DESTRUCTING ALREADY!?

I DROPPED IT!!

INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR HIM TO SELF DESTRUCT...

WHY DID I DO THAT...?

I KNOW...

YES...

HE WON'T TURN AROUND UNTIL 1 MINUTE...

I...

I DROPPED IT!!

I'VE KNOWN FOR A WHILE...

I KNEW IT. SOME-HOW

IT'S ALMOST LIKE

IT COULD BE

THE SMOKE SIGNALS THAT HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR TO START HIS COUNTER-ATTACK!!

IF USOGUI TURNS AROUND NOW, IT WILL BE AN "INSTANT CHECK"!!

NO MATTER HOW MANY MIRACLES HE HAD BEEN PULLING OFF AGAINST A BAMBOO SWORD,

IT MIGHT BE A SLIGHTLY FAR FETCHED EXAMPLE, BUT...

OF COURSE

HE ISN'T CHECKING INSTANTLY.

IT'S GOING TO BE 8:57:10 A.M.

TICK

TICK

IF HE ENDS UP TOUCHING IT WITH HIS BARE SKIN.

RIGHT NOW HE'S GOING AGAINST A WHOLE DIFFERENT KIND OF SWORD.

WHERE CRITICAL WOUNDS WILL BE CARVED INTO HIS BODY

EVEN IF IT'S TRUE, HE'LL NEVER WIN IF HE DOESN'T TURN AROUND

YOU'RE RIGHT

CAN ALSO BE THE MOMENT WHERE EVERY-THING ENDS

BUT.. BUT... EVEN IF IT'S TRUE...

USOGUI IS SHOWING HIS BACK AGAINST SUCH A SWORD

RIGHT NOW,

THE MOMENT HE TURNS AROUND

MADARAME BAKU!!

CAN YOU TURN AROUND!?

CAN YOU TURN AROUND, USOGUI!?

AND NOT JUST ONCE, HE HAS TO DO IT MANY TIMES.

FOR HIM, THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO WIN!

PANT

ALL THE CHAINS WRAPPED AROUND HIM...

USOGUI HAS TO CUT THROUGH

PANT

PANT

HE WILL FIND A PATH AS LONG AS HE TURNS AROUND!!

HE'LL NEVER TURN AROUND...

DEFINITELY.

...MY CONVICTION IS AS STRONG AS THAT TIME WHERE I KNEW THE NIGHT SKY WOULD STAY SILENT.

WHY IS MY CONVICTION SO STRONG?

MY HEART JUST KNOWS IT.

SOME-HOW...

AND YET, EVEN THOUGH I'M SO CONVINCED,

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...?

WHY AM I BELIEVING IN SUCH A FIERCE CONVICTION WITHOUT ANY BASIS...

WHY ARE MY EMOTIONS RACING... PRAYING WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT?

AM I SCREAMING INSIDE "DO NOT TURN AROUND!!" TOWARDS HIS BACK?

WHY

I SEE...

WHY IS MY HEART BOILING...?

SO THIS IS...

I SEE...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME FOR ME...

SO THIS IS

GAMBLING, HUH...

CHAPTER 523

TO THE FUTURE

ITS GOING TO BE 8.57:20 AM.

I KNOW HE WON'T TURN AROUND UNTIL 40 SECONDS —

HE WON'T TURN AROUND

NO.

MY HEART IS SHOUTING—

I'M FEELING THE SENSATION OF "GAMBLING".

"DON'T TURN AROUND !"

DON'T TURN AROUND !!

I'LL WIN !!

DON'T TURN AROUND !!

EVERY-
ONE
IS MORE
OR LESS
AWARE
OF THIS.

YOU'VE
DROPPED IT!!

YOU'VE
DROPPED IT,
RIGHT...!?

IT'S
THERE
!!

THE HOT BLOODED,

THE COLD BLOOD-ED,

THE BIGOTED,

NO MATTER WHAT TYPE OF PERSON THEY ARE, EVERYONE IS THE SAME WHEN GAMBLING.

GAMB-LING

IS MERCI-LESS.

ITS A CHEAP AND PRIMITIVE BEHAVIOR.

IT IS BECAUSE OF ITS MERCILESSNESS, THAT PEOPLE PRAY THE HARDER THEY PRAY.

THEY PRAY.

AT THE LAST MOMENT,

THE CRAZIER THEY BECOME.

"CHECK" SUCCEEDED.

THE SQUANDERED TIME IS

60 SECONDS.

IT'S GOING TO BE 8:58:10 AM.

TICK

TICK

TICK

BAKU-SAMA,

YOU'D DROP IT "IMME-DIATELY".

I NEVER THOUGHT.

ALTHOUGH I KNEW YOU'D DROP IT EARLY ON...

I COULDN'T TURN AROUND UNTIL THE END...

YEAH.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT THIS WAY

SO? WAS IT FUN?

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF GAMBLERS.

HAL.

YOU WON.

HEY, KAJI...

MARCO WANTS TO SEE BAKU-NIICHAN.

SOMEHOW...

EXACTLY WHAT IS "GAMBLING".

AND WHAT IS AHEAD OF IT.

IS AWARE OF IT

EVERY-ONE

THE NEXT ROUND WILL START WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF 8:59:00 AM.

UNTIL "THAT" IS SHOWN TO THEIR FACE.

NOT WANTING TO THINK ABOUT IT,

UNTIL THE COMING OF THAT MOMENT,

THEY JUST DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT...

ME TOO, MARCO.

THE DREAM THEY ARE HAVING IS TOO SWEET...

IT'S BECAUSE

AFTER HE WINS.

LET'S GO SEE HIM

PEOPLE WILL MORE OR LESS TRY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE.

…

9TH ROUND, 2ND HALF

I CAN'T WAIT TO ASK WHAT HIS NEXT PLAN IS.

THIS GAMBLE IS ALREADY A...

AND KIRUMA, WHO, WITHOUT HESITATION,

USOGUI, WHO HAD PREDICTED THE DROPPING OF THE HANDKERCHIEF BUT RETREATED AND CHOSE THE "SAFE STRATEGY"

ADVANCED PERFECTLY ON USOGUI'S RETREAT.

*TSUME SHOGI...

*A JAPANESE TERM FOR A SHOGI MINIATURE PROBLEM IN WHICH THE GOAL IS TO CHECKMATE THE OPPONENT'S KING. IT IS SIMILAR TO A CHESS PUZZLE. THE IDEA IS THAT CHECKMATE IS GUARANTEED IF YOU PLAY THE RIGHT MOVES, AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF FIGURING THOSE MOVES OUT.

AFTER IT'S BEEN DISPLAYED IN FRONT OF THEM.

THEY HAVE

THEY FINALLY SAW IT

ALSO SEEN IT.

USO-GUI

DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF ANYMORE.

WILL NOT

IN THIS SITUATION. IT'S TOO HARD TO MAKE KIRUMA'S ACCUMULATION "EXCEED 5 MINUTES"

THE GAP BETWEEN THEIR ACCUMULATION IS TOO BIG ALREADY

INDEED... AS IT IS, ACCUMULATING THE OPPONENT'S CYLINDER IS...

NOT REALISTIC ANYMORE.

AND HAL

WON'T TURN HIS HEAD EITHER.

WON'T DROP IT.

USOGUI

GAMBL ING.

EXPOSED BY THE DARK AND CHAOTIC

WHILE FACING THE CRUEL REALITY

SOMEHOW, THEY DIDN'T LAMENT.

WERE JUST EXPRESSIONS OF INTIMACY BETWEEN THE FIGHTERS.

THINGS LIKE CRUELTY AND MERCILESSNESS

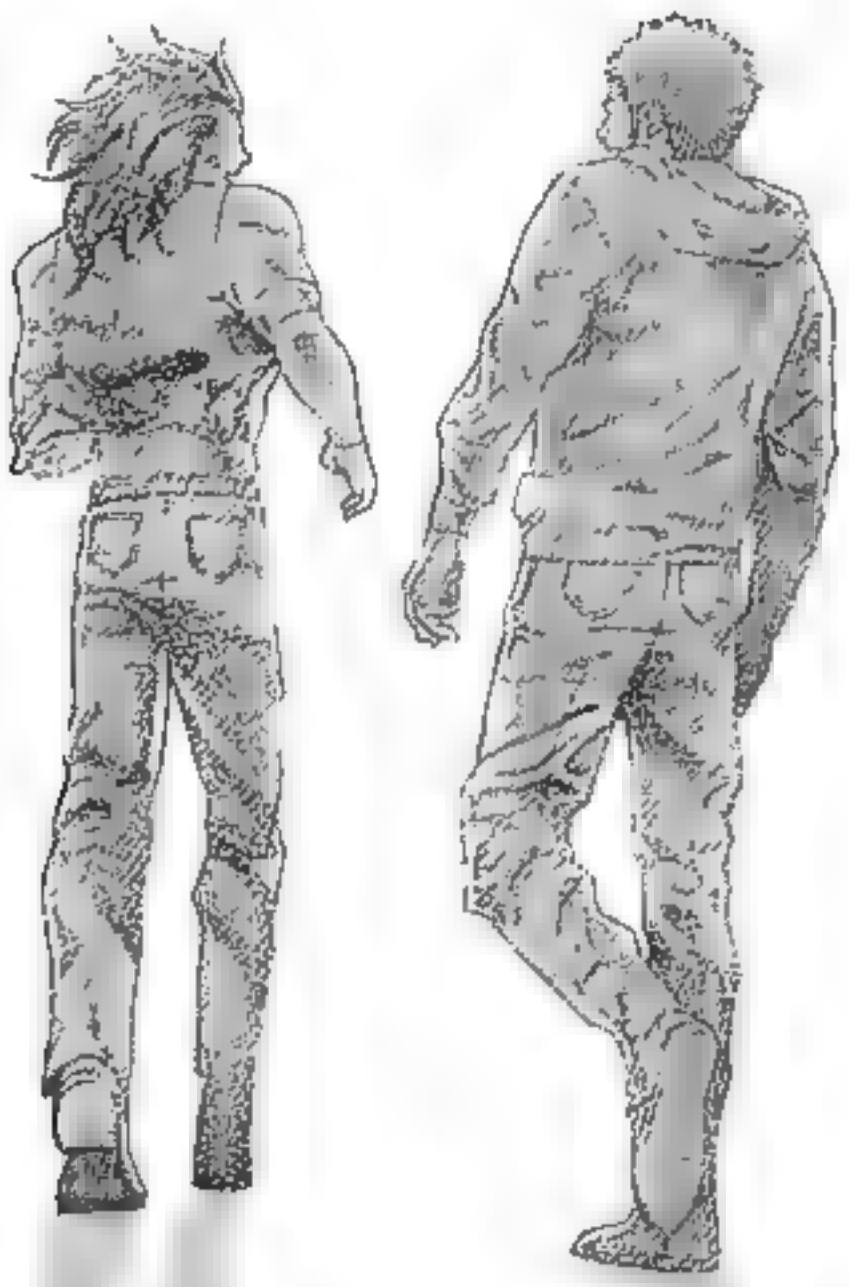
BECAUSE THEY HAD NO FEAR

賭

FUEL TO IGNITE THE COURAGE WITHIN THEIR HEARTS.

CHAPTER 523

TO THE FUTURE



IT'S GOING TO BE 5:59:30 AM.

00: 00

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

DONG!!

TICK

TICK

TICK

I'VE WITNESSED MANY ENDINGS.

SINCE I JOINED CLUB KAKEROU AND BECAME A REFEREE,

CHAPTER 524
ENDINGS

CHAPTER 524

ENDINGS

WHILE FACING THEIR ENDINGS,

THEY WOULD SWING BETWEEN GIVING UP AND HOLDING ONTO THEIR LAST HOPE.

THEY COULDN'T EVEN NOTICE THEIR OWN SWINGING,

AND COULD ONLY DO NOTHING UNTIL THE END CAME.

9

9

SLOWLY, SLOWLY, AS TIME WENT ON.

THEY WOULD APPROACH THEIR DEATH

JUST LIKE A DEAD MAN WALK-ING,

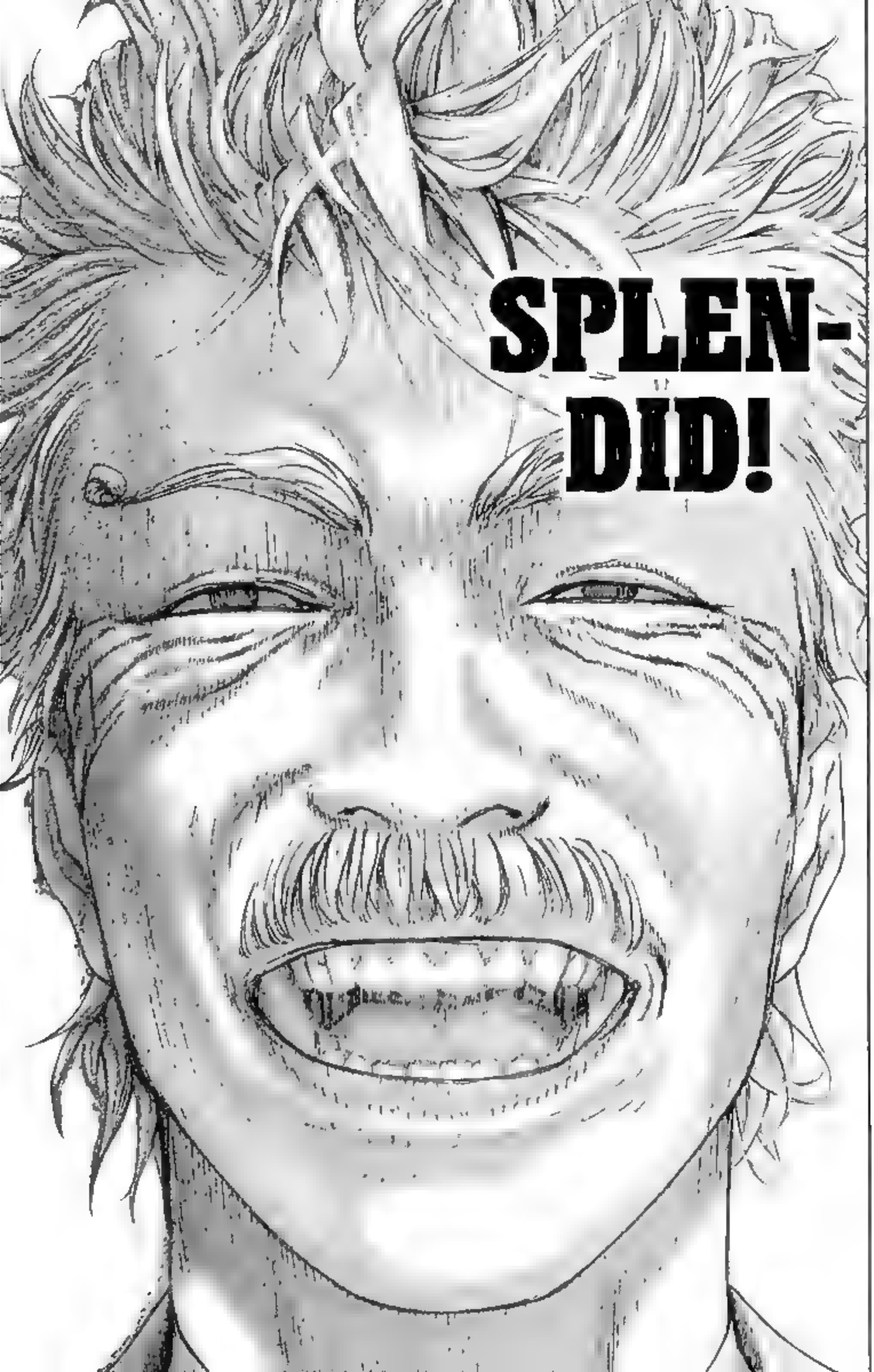
.....FACING THEIR ENDINGS, WHEN THEY DECIDED TO GIVE UP ON THE THEORIES, THEIR HEARTS HAD ACTUALLY GIVEN UP ON EVERYTHING...

HOWEVER, USOGUI HASN'T DROPPED THE HANDKERCHIEF YET.

LEADER WON'T TURN HIS HEAD UNTIL THE 60 SECONDS 'ARE UP.

10 SECONDS LEFT...

NO.


SPLEN-
DID!

EVERY-
ONE
IS JUST

EVERYONE
HAS "TIME"
THAT BELONGS
ONLY TO
THEM.

YUKIIDE
KAORU

301

LIVNG
THEIR
OWN
TIME

IN
THEIR
OWN
WAYS.

EXPE-
RIENCE
THE
SAME
TIME
AS
OTHERS.

NO
ONE
CAN

....NO
NEED TO
LAMENT,

THE SIGHT
OF YOU
CHALLENGING
FATE IN ITS
PUREST FORM.

THAT'S WHY
I WAS
CAPTIVATED
BY YOU.

DONG!!

60 SECONDS. AS I THOUGHT IT'S THE "SAFE STRATEGY"

...

EVEN THOUGH THE TIME IS UP,

HE DIDN'T DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF.

A RULE VIOLA-TION...

SO HE HAS GIVEN UP, HUH...

DONG!!

TICK

TICK

THIS SOUND IS SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING ELSE.

THAT'S THE SOUND.

TICK

LE-LEADER...

THIS SOUND IS SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING ELSE.

WHAT ...?

...HUH?

WHEN LEADER "CHECKED",

.....

THE HANDKERCHIEF HADN'T BEEN DROPPED YET.

WHAT JUST... HAPPENED?

WHAT?

WHAT JUST...

"CHECK"

FAILED.

I TOLD YOU.

THAT I'D MAKE A COMEBACK.

"CHECK"

CHAPTER 525

THE SECOND SIGNAL

FAILED.

WH-

W-

CHAPTER 525

THE SECOND SIGNAL

WHY
!?

WHY DID HE TURN ARDUND!?

HE WAS GUARANTEED TO WIN THE RESILIENCE BATTLE!!

HE... HE ALREADY WAITED FOR ALMOST A MINUTE.

NO WAY!!

WAS TOO BIG TO OVER-COME!!

THE GAP BETWEEN THE ACCUMULATION IN THEIR CYLINDERS

THE PENALTY IS...

"CHECK" FAILED

THIS IS THE SITUATION THAT HAD TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS...

HAS REACHED THE LIMIT.

THE SUM OF THE NEAR-DEATHS

AT THIS MOMENT,

THE FINAL 3RD DEATH...

1 MINUTE OF NEAR-DEATH.

THE TABLES WERE TURNED AROUND IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!!

...

I...

I USED THE SAFE STRATEGY... I CHECKED AT 1 MINUTE...

WITHOUT A DOUBT...

NOT YET, LEO!?

HERE IT IS.

DONG!!

ALARM WHICH ANNOUNCES THE 1 MINUTE MARK.

THAT

THAT SOUND, DONG!!

BY... BY THE WAY,

RING TWICE?

DIDN'T IT

YOU FAILED YOUR "1-MINUTE CHECK".

HAL,

FOR THE "FAILED CHECK" THIS TIME.

WAS THE REASON

THE ALARM THAT RANG TWICE

!

ARE THERE IN 1 MINUTE?

HAL... EXACTLY HOW MANY SECONDS

BUT IT WAS HIDDEN IN THE FOG AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT...

IT'S AN OBVIOUS FACT,

BEING PILFERED BY A FOX.

IT'S LIKE

LET'S LEAVE ASIDE HOW HE ACHIEVED IT FIRST.

THAT'S WHY IT'S WORTH A TRY.

THERE'S ONE THING WE CAN BE CERTAIN OF.

IT'S BECAUSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT IT'S WORTH TRYING TO MAKE HAPPEN.

"1-MINUTE CHECK".

"MADE" LEADER FAIL HIS

USO-GUI

THIS IS THE TRUTH.

PRESS

SO...

WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY? AND WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THERE?

LISTEN UP.

THIS IS IT.

THIS IS...

I KNEW IT.

EVERYONE WAS HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO CATCH THIS MOMENT!!

IT'S NEW YEARS TODAY BUT PEOPLE DIDN'T GO TO VISIT TEMPLES.

BUT INSTEAD GATHERED HERE TO WITNESS THIS PRECIOUS MOMENT!

BUT RIGHT HERE,

GENERALLY SPEAKING, NO ONE WILL NOTICE THAT EXTRA 1 SECOND TODAY.

9:00:13

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THAT 1 SECOND.

9:00:14

BUT ACTUALLY ITS SPEED CAN BE EITHER SLIGHTLY FASTER OR SLOWER.

MOST OF US BELIEVE THAT THE EARTH TAKES EXACTLY 24 HOURS TO ROTATE AROUND THE SUN.

IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE LEAP YEAR WHICH HAPPENS ONCE EVERY 4 YEARS. THIS IS AN IRREGULAR ADJUSTMENT IT'S BEEN 3 YEARS SINCE THEY LAST DID IT

SO, SINCE 1972...

9:00:15

A LEAP SECOND.

WILL GRADUALLY APPEAR

DUE TO THE "UNSTABLE SPEED" OF THE EARTH'S ROTATION.

THE GAP BETWEEN COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME (UTC) WHICH IS BASED ON THE EARTH'S ROTATION AND INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC TIME (TAI) WHICH KEEPS TRACK OF TIME ACCURATELY.

THE WHOLE WORLD WILL CORRECT THIS "GAP" AT THE SAME TIME.

WHEN IT'S NECESSARY,

BUT INSTEAD, THEY WILL INSERT

8:59:60

THE NORMALLY NONEXISTENT 8:59:60 AM IN BETWEEN.

8:59:59

AFTER 8:59:59 AM,

9:00:00

IT NORMALLY BECOMES 9:00:00 AM.

IT'S GOING TO BE 9:00:00 AM.

THIS IS THE NORMAL TIME ANNOUNCE-MENT.

TICK 8:59:56

BEEP 8:59:57

BEEP 8:59:58

BEEP 8:59:59

DONG!! 9:00:00

AND THIS

IS THE VERSION WITH THE INSERTED LEAP SECOND.

PRESS

8:59:56

8:59:57

THAT INSERTED SECOND IS

8:59:58

8:59:59

8:59:60

9:00:00

9:00:01

9:00:02

THE LEAP SECOND.

9:00:05

9:00:06

BEEP
59 SECONDS
BEEP
58 SECONDS
BEEP
57 SECONDS
TICK
56 SECONDS
DONG!!
80 SECONDS
DONG!!
9:00:00

HE'D FAIL HIS CHECK DUE TO TURNING AROUND 1 SECOND EARLIER!!

BECAUSE THE TIME LIMIT IS NOT 60 SECONDS BUT 1 MINUTE!

MEAN-ING,

IT RANG TWICE...

IT...

1 SECOND...

ASSUMING KIKUMA YOUICHI TURNED HIS HEAD WHEN 60 SECONDS WAS ANNOUNCED.

IS

61 SECONDS LONG.

ON THIS DAY,

TODAY, JANUARY 1ST, SURPASSING THE LEADER.

THE 1 MINUTE BETWEEN 8:59:00 AND 9:00:00,

*CH.496 P.14

THE WORDS I SAID ...?

ARE THESE...

THIS 1 MINUTE RIGHT NOW FEELS SO SHORT TO ME

THE PASSING OF TIME FEELS DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION

FEELS LONG, DOESN'T IT?

AT THAT TIME, I SAW HIM LAUGHING...

AT THAT TIME...

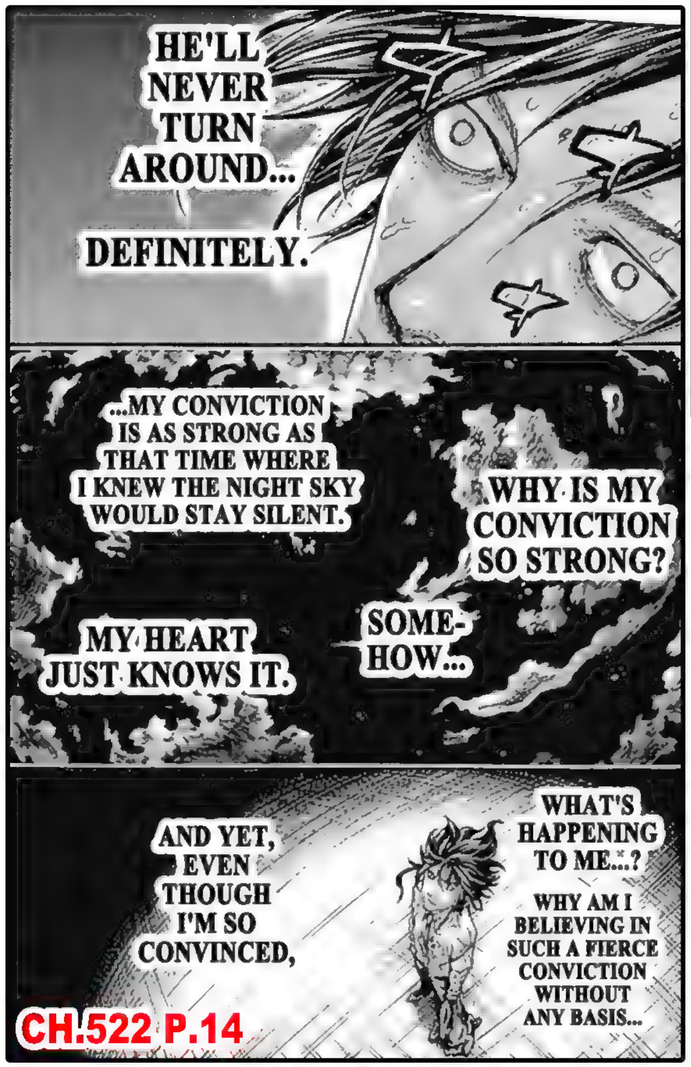
60 SECONDS ?

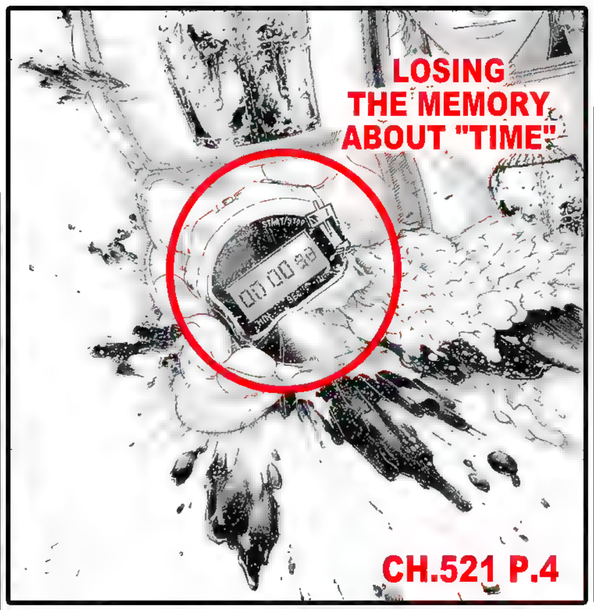
IS THIS

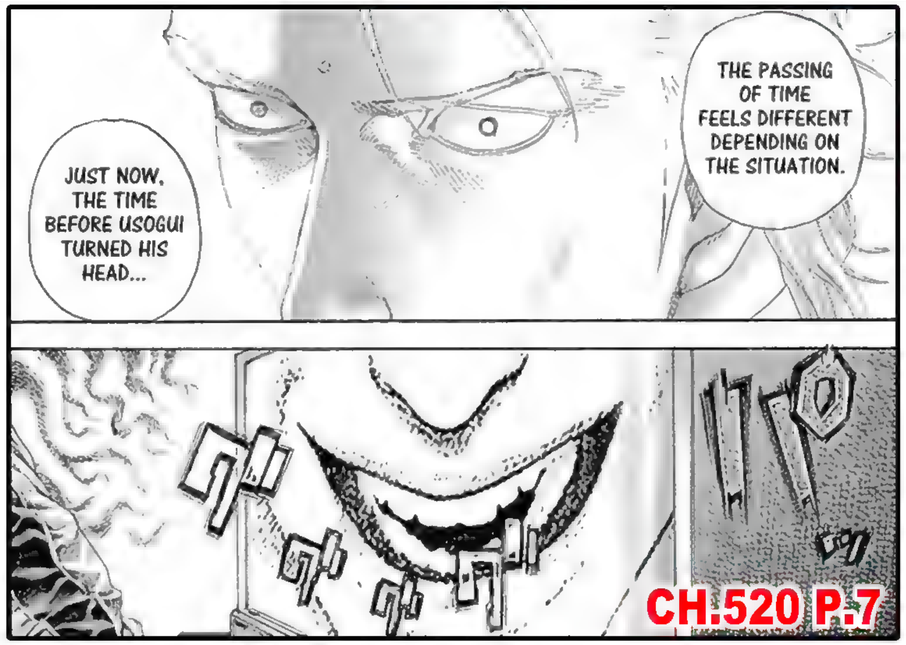
THE SAME 1 MINUTE?

THE SAME...

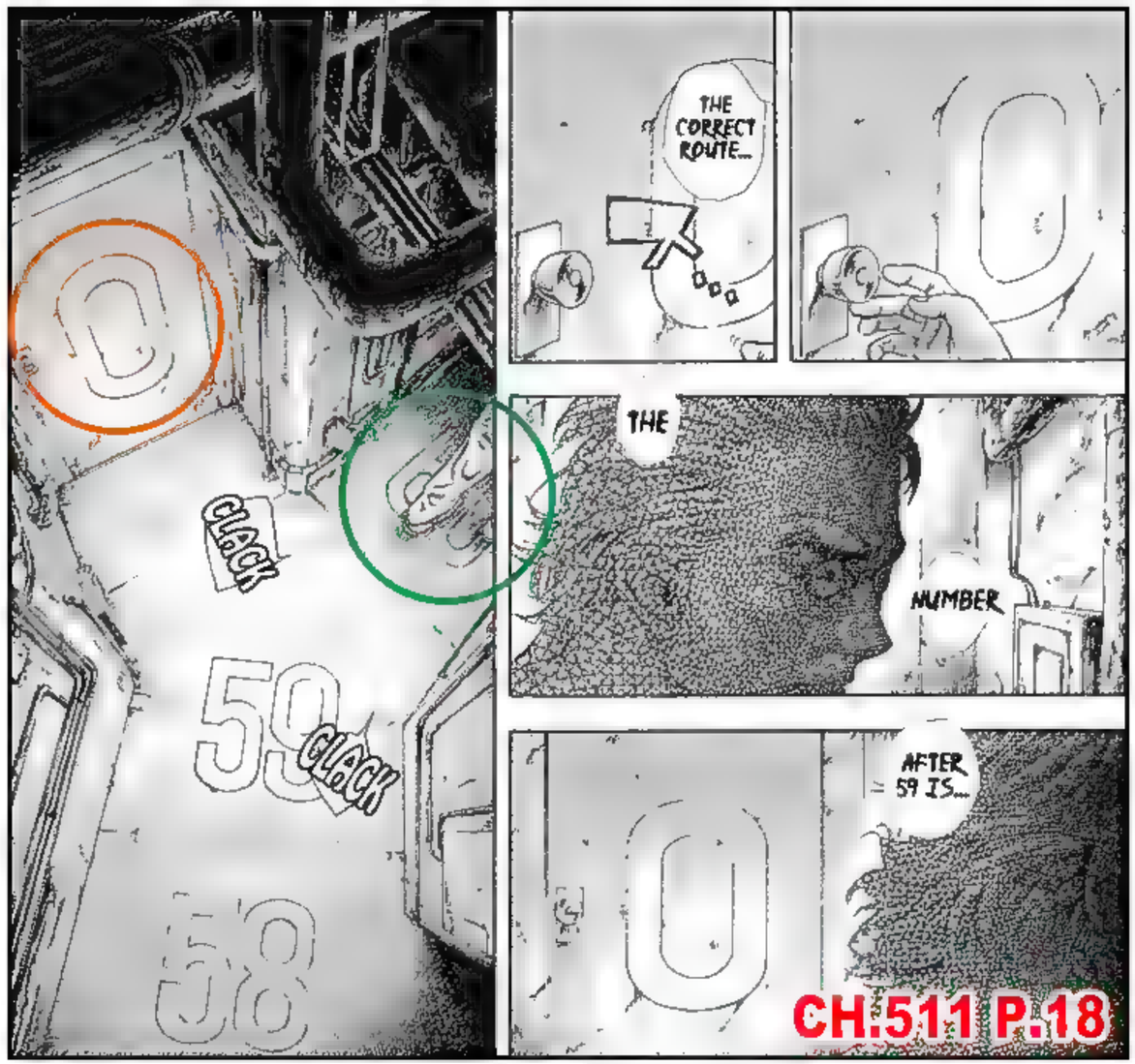
SOME OTHER FORESHADOWINGS OF SOUICHI CATCHING THE LEAP SECOND BUT FORGETTING IT AFTER HIS 2ND NEAR-DEATH.


HE'LL NEVER TURN AROUND...
DEFINITELY.
...MY CONVICTION IS AS STRONG AS THAT TIME WHERE I KNEW THE NIGHT SKY WOULD STAY SILENT.
WHY IS MY CONVICTION SO STRONG?
SOME-HOW...
MY HEART JUST KNOWS IT.
AND YET, EVEN THOUGH I'M SO CONVINCED,
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...?
WHY AM I BELIEVING IN SUCH A FIERCE CONVICTION WITHOUT ANY BASIS...
CH.522 P.14

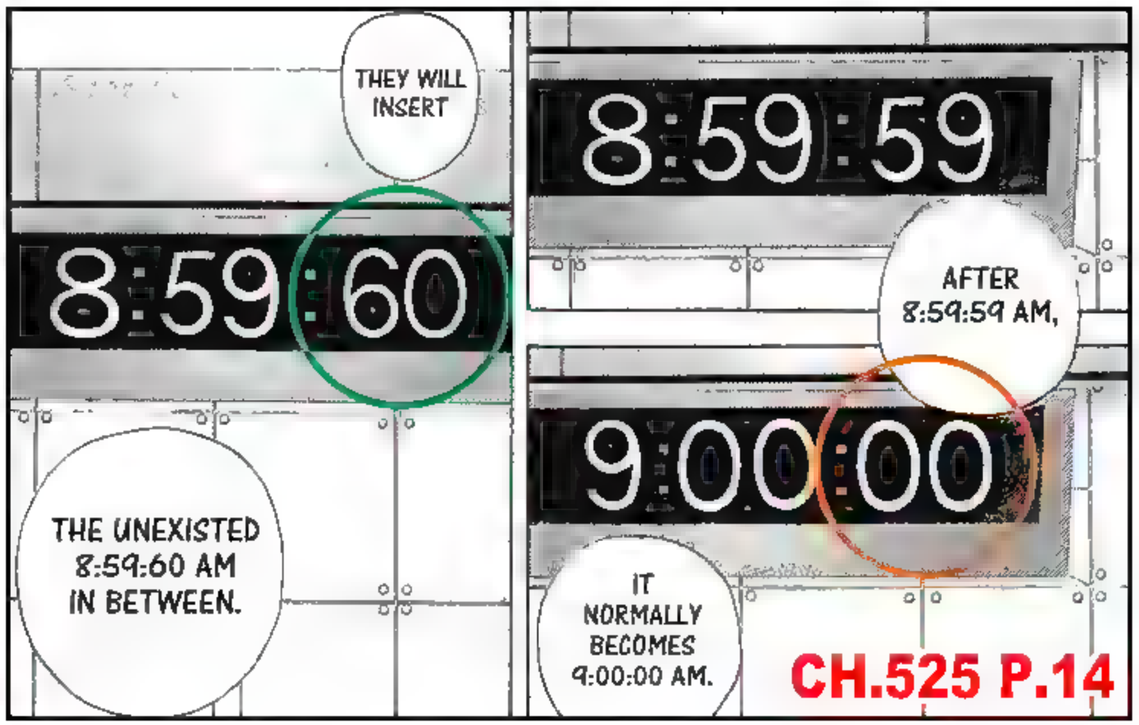




THE FORSHADOWINGS IN BAKU'S NEAR-DEATH DREAM



CH.511 P.18



CH.525 P.14

LEADER. YOU'VE DIED TWICE FOR A TOTAL OF 3 MINUTES AND 58 SECONDS.

AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO DIE FOR 1 MINUTE.

CHAPTER 526
THE MAN WHO DIED FIRST

TOO

YOU UNDER-STAND

WHAT THIS MEANS, RIGHT?

THAT MAN SITTING OVER THERE FEEBLY. WHAT EXACTLY IS HE?

REFEREE YAKOU,

GAMBLER... MADARAME BAKU...

HE'LL CLIMB UP AGAIN LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, AND DEVOUR YOU.

IS HE REALLY HUMAN?

WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE DESTROYED HIM,

HE'S FRAGILE, BUT HE'LL NEVER BE BROKEN.

HE WAS ALREADY BROKEN SINCE THE BEGINNING...

OR MAYBE

HE'D NEVER TURN AROUND.

I WAS SO CONVINCED THAT

USED TO KNOW, THAT REASON...

I...

NOW, I UNDERSTAND WHY...

THERE WAS A REASON FOR MY CERTAINTY.

A LEAP SECOND YOU SAID...? HAHA...

HA!

NOW I KNOW WHAT A LEAP SECOND IS!!

EXACTLY --

WHAT ABOUT THE RULES!? WHAT ABOUT THE TIME LIMIT!? IT'S 1 MINUTE, ISN'T IT!? AND 1 MINUTE IS 60 SECONDS...

BUT WHAT DOES THAT 1 EXTRA SECOND MEAN!?

1 MINUTE IS NOT EQUAL TO 60 SECONDS.

...

WRONG.

TURNED THE MINUTE INTO 61 SECONDS.

THE SPEAKING CLOCK

AND THE SPEAKING CLOCK IS SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING.

IT HAPPENED TO BE USOGUI'S ROUND TO PLAY "D"...

IN THE 9TH ROUND, 2ND HALF, 8:59:00 AM,

ARE YOU SAYING THAT

IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?

AND USOGUI THOUGHT: "RIGHT... THERE'S A LEAP SECOND TODAY!! SO LET ME SET A TRAP!!"

ARE YOU SAYING THAT USOGUI SET A TRAP FOR LEADER BY USING THE LEAP SECOND!?

SO WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THAT MEANS HE INDEED KNEW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE LEAP SECOND.

IF USOGUI DIDN'T DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF AT 60 SECONDS,

ARE NOW

BUT THESE PEOPLE WHO CAN ONLY GET LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE MATCH

THEY ARE NOT AT THE SCENE.

SEEING THE SAME SIGHT...

IF IT'S NOT A COINCIDENCE, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN IT!?

"AIR POKER", "COLLECTING THE HANDKER-CHIEFS".

"THE 卍(BAN) MATCH".

THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS THAT HAPPENED BEFORE THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER"!!

IT...

NO WAY...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT!?

YOU'VE ALREADY FALLEN INTO THE TRAP.

THE MOMENT YOU BELIEVE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE,

THE GAMBLER PRIED IT OPEN...

IF IT'S NOT A COINCIDENCE, THEN IS IT THE "DESTINY" THING LEADER TALKED ABOUT!?

I VOTE FOR "NOT A COINCIDENCE" TOO.

!?

HE PRIED THE UNOPENABLE OPEN...

25 DAYS AGO, ON 12/7, THE ONE WHO DECIDED THE DEADLINE OF THE 卍(BAN) MATCH,

AND MADE THIS "SURPASSING THE LEADER" BE HELD ON THIS DAY,

WAS THE MAN WHO DREW THE "TIME" CARD,

MADARAME BAKU...

THERE'S ANOTHER TRUTH.

EVERYONE, PLEASE LISTEN.

BEEP

THIS IS A "LEAP SECOND ANNOUNCE-MENT" TOO ..

HOWEVER, IT'S A DIFFERENT PHONE LINE FROM THE PHONE LINE ON THIS ISLAND.

THIS IS?

DONG!!

BEEP

BEEP

WHICH MEANS THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON THE PHONE LINE IT'D BE HARD TO MAKE SURE THE STRATEGY WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

DODGE THE TRAP.

IF IT WAS THIS PHONE LINE, KIRUMA SOUICHI WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO

9:00:00

DONG!!

ANOTHER PHONE LINE

8:59:60 8:59:59 8:59:58

BEEP BEEP BEEP

AS YOU HEARD, THE "DONG" SOUND IS DIFFERENT NOW. IT ONLY RANG ONCE.

9:00:00 8:59:60

DONG!! DONG!!

8:59:59 8:59:58

BEEP BEEP

THE PHONE LINE ON THE ISLAND

THE SPEAKING CLOCK TYPE ON THE TOP: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gYbUHQmEcQ
THE SPEAKING CLOCK TYPE ON THE BOTTOM: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRYjn58NKiI

WHICH MEANS, USOGUI HAD TO FIND OUT WHICH PHONE LINE THE ISLAND HAD BEEN USING IN ADVANCE.

NO, THERE IS AN URGENT MATTER!!

AH, PLAYER RYUUSEI,

NO ONE CAN ENTER NOW IT'S RE ALLOCATING RIGHT NOW

*CHAPTER 470, P.10&P.11

HOLD ON A SECOND.

... AH, WELL, THE ISLAND IS DONE FOR ANYWAY, SO THERE'S NO POINT RAISING A FUSS NOW

PHONE HOME?

I NEED TO PHONE HOME NOW!!

USOGUI FIGURED OUT THIS ISLAND'S PHONE LINE

THROUGH THAT KID,

IN ADVANCE...

I REMEMBER HE'S USOGUI'S FRIEND...

THAT... THAT KID WITH SMALL EYES...

"USOGUI KNEW ABOUT THE LEAP SECOND BEFORE THIS 卍(BAN) MATCH".

WE CAN MOST LIKELY BE CERTAIN OF THAT.

IN THIS MATCH,

IS THE GAME BEING "DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF" A COINCIDENCE TOO?

BUT WAS IT JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT THE PHONE LINE ON THIS ISLAND MATCHED HIS PLAN?

WAS IT JUST "DESTINY"?

WAS "USING THE SPEAKING CLOCK FOR THE GAME"

"DESTINY" TOO?

REST ASSURED THIS IS THE CLOCK THAT'S USUALLY KEPT IN THIS TOWER

I'LL PUT IT IN FRONT OF YOU TWO.

...

KAJI TAKAOMI

HAD ENTERED THE TOWER

BEFORE WE DID.

COULD IT BE THAT

HE HAD DONE SOMETHING ...?

WE AREN'T

GOING TO USE THIS.

IN THE FIRST PLACE,

IF WE'RE NOT GOING TO USE IT, HOW ARE WE GOING TO PLAY THE GAME?

IS THERE ANOTHER THING

THAT CAN ACCURATELY TIME OTHER THAN THAT CLOCK...?

BY DOING NOTHING...

USOGUI ACHIEVED HIS GOAL

NOTHING.

IT HAPPENED TO BE USOGUI'S TURN TO PLAY "D" WHEN THE LEAP SECOND WAS JUST ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

08:59:00 AM.

!.....

.....

"DESTINY" TOO...?

WAS THAT DECIDED BY

IS "ONE MINUTE".
THE TIME LIMIT FOR EACH TURN...
I REMEMBER IT WAS...
1 MINUTE...!!
IT WAS ABOUT 1 MINUTE!
WHAT ABOUT THE INTERVAL UNTIL THE NEXT ROUND STARTS?
WHAT ABOUT THE INTERVAL AFTER A NEAR-DEATH!? DON'T TELL ME...
ISN'T IT JUST IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE...?
EACH TURN TAKES ABOUT 2 MINUTES IN TOTAL!! BUT THAT'S ONLY FOR WHEN "C SUCCEEDS".

HAVING A DEATH MATCH WITH LEADER...

SEARCHING, DYING.....

AT FIRST GLANCE, USOGUI WASN'T DOING ANYTHING.

HE SEEMED TO BE HAVING A MIND GAME WITH LEADER IN THIS "DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF"...

NO.

AT LEAST I DIDN'T HEAR HIM SAYING ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

OR THE INTERVALS AFTER A NEAR-DEATH?

DID REFEREE YAKOU EXPLAIN THE DETAILS ABOUT THE INTERVALS BETWEEN EVERY ROUND

WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE, THE MATCH HAD ALREADY STARTED...

THAT'S RIGHT.

...

I REMEMBER IN THE 1ST ROUND, 1ST HALF... IN THE VERY FIRST GAME, USOGUI...

I...

DURING THIS DEATH MATCH,

USOGUI WAS THE ONLY ONE

WHO TRIED TO FIGURE OUT

THE THINGS THAT NOBODY CARED ABOUT.

HE

DIED FIRST.

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HE HAD TO FIGURE OUT THE PACE THIS GAME MOVED AT AND THE INTERVALS BETWEEN EACH NEAR-DEATH

IN ORDER TO SEIZE THE TIMING TO USE THE LEAP SECOND.

EARLIER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

AND THEN HE FIGURED IT OUT

WHICH WOULD HAPPEN AT 9:00:00 AM.

IN ORDER TO UTILIZE THE LEAP SECOND,

TAKE PLACE DURING THE MINUTE BEFORE 9:00:00 AM.

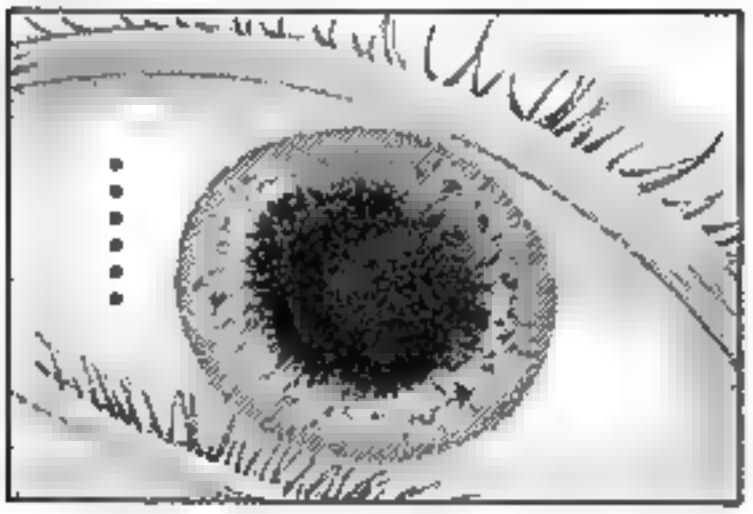
USOGUI HAD TO MAKE HIS TURN AS "D".

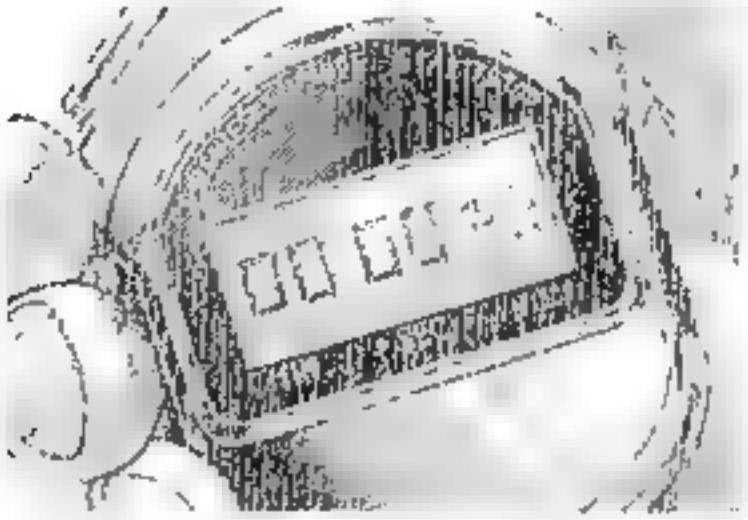
HEY...

CHAPTER 527

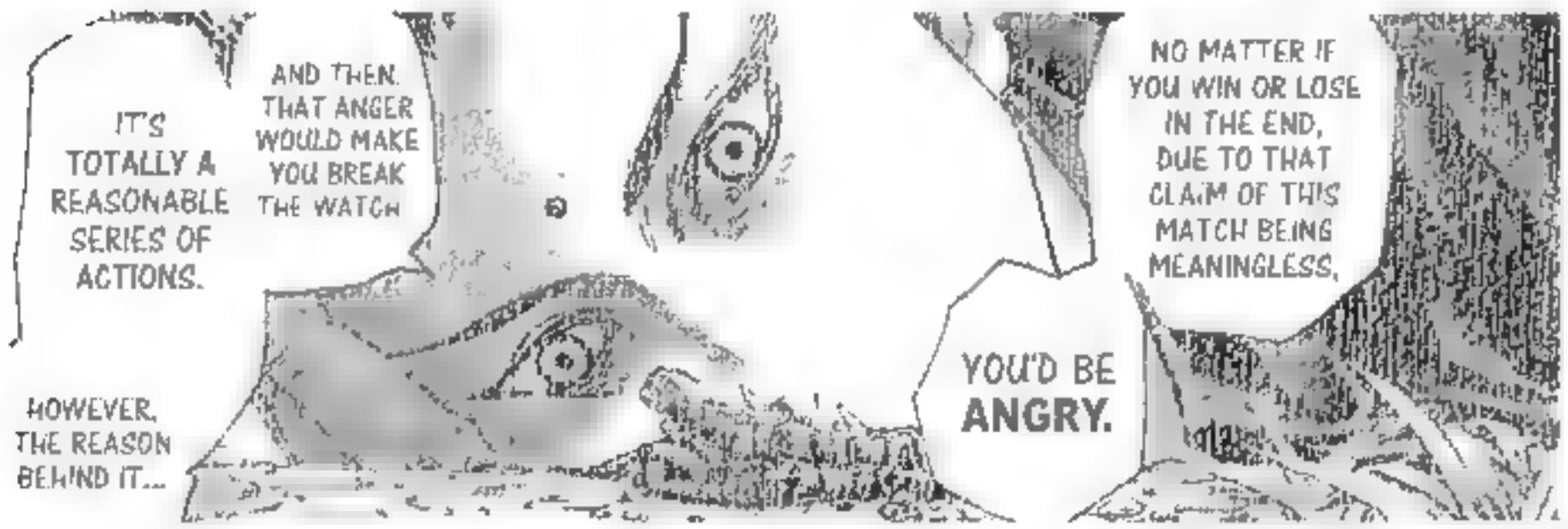
DRAWER OF UNCERTAINTY

*CHAPTER 473&474





THEN LET'S USE THE ONE I GOT FROM THE DEVELOPERS BEFORE
SORRY NOT ON ME RIGHT NOW
DO YOU HAVE A WATCH? WE'LL BE MEASURING TIME, SO
TAKE IT... AND PRESS START.


IT'S TOTALLY A REASONABLE SERIES OF ACTIONS.
AND THEN, THAT ANGER WOULD MAKE YOU BREAK THE WATCH
HOWEVER, THE REASON BEHIND IT...
YOU'D BE ANGRY.
NO MATTER IF YOU WIN OR LOSE IN THE END, DUE TO THAT CLAIM OF THIS MATCH BEING MEANINGLESS,

THE REASON I WAS SURE THAT HE'D NEVER TURN ROUND UNTIL 60 SECONDS WAS,

AT THAT TIME...

TIME...

TIME...

IN THE NEXT ROUND WHICH WOULD START AT 8:59:00 AM.

AS LONG AS HE SUCCEEDED HIS "CHECK", HE'D BE ABLE TO PLAY AS "D"

I HAD ARRIVED AT WHERE THE ANSWER WAS...

I SOLVED THE PUZZLE RIGHT BEFORE THE TIME RAN OUT...

THAT HE'D NEVER TURN AROUND...

THAT'S WHY I WAS SURE

USOGUI HAD BEEN PREPARING WITHOUT ANYBODY NOTICING.

IN ORDER TO HAVE HIS TURN AS "D" HAPPEN RIGHT AT 8:59:00 AM,

1ST ROUND, 1ST HALF, AFTER THE NEAR-DEATH

IT'S GOING TO BE 8:15:00 AM.

USOGUI CHOSE TO DIE FIRST IN ORDER TO FIGURE OUT THE PACE OF THE GAME, WHICH I OMITTED WHEN I WAS EXPLAINING THE RULES.

WE'LL START THE 2ND HALF OF THE 1ST ROUND

AT 8:17:00 AM...

FROM THEN ON,

8:12:00 AM.

THE TIME WE STARTED "SURPASSING THE LEADER" WAS

ABOUT 1 MINUTE

1 MINUTE

ABOUT 2 AND A HALF MINUTES,

IN OTHER WORDS,

THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THE REVIVAL PROCESS AND THE START OF THE NEXT ROUND.

29 SECONDS

29 SECONDS PASSED, HE FAILED HIS "CHECK".

29 SECONDS

ABOUT 1 MINUTE

INJECTING THE NEAR-DEATH DRUG.

29 SECONDS

ABOUT 1 MINUTE

1 MINUTE

1 MINUTE OF NEAR-DEATH.

3

1 MINUTE OF NEAR-DEATH WOULD CONSUME 5 MINUTES OF GAME TIME.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT.....

COULD YOU MOVE?

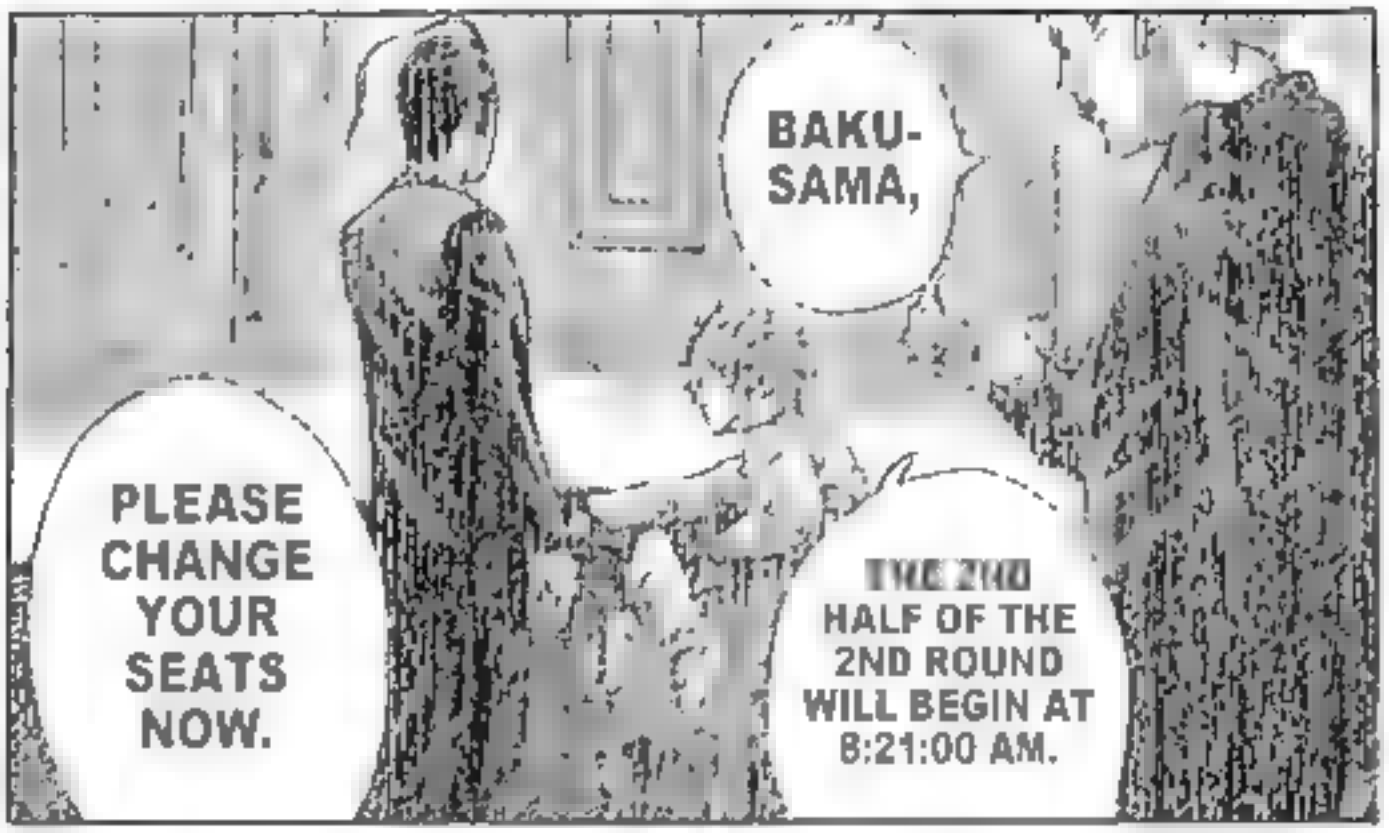
FOR HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON SITTING THERE?

*CH.501, P.8

AFTER THE END OF THE 2ND ROUND, 1ST HALF.

THAT ACTION TOO

.....



YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ENTER THE LEAP SECOND ROUTE.

IF YOU MANAGE TO PERFECTLY CALCULATE AND MANIPULATE THE DEATH,

BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND,

ALONG WITH THE VARIATIONS OF THE DURATION OF THE NEAR-DEATH, THE INTERVAL CAN BE UNPREDICT-ABLE...

HOWEVER, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE WITH A NEAR-DEATH.

*CH.501, P 13

WITH-OUT DYING.

THIS GAME CANNOT BE WON

IS A PATH FULL OF THORNS.

12

HOW-EVER, MANIPU-LATING DEATH

EVERY-
THING
RIGHT
NOW.

I CAN
CLEARLY
SEE

IT'S LIKE I'M THINKING IN FROZEN TIME.

EVERY-
THING
THAT HAD
HAPPENED
SO FAR
IS BEING
COLORED
IN MY
HEAD.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER...

WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING TO
ME...?

IT'S LIKE I'VE GRASPED EVERYTHING...

LEADER, THE 3RD ROUND

LEADER DIED FOR 1 MINUTE AND 24 SECONDS!!

A COUNTER-ATTACK HAPPENED IN THE 2ND ROUND, 2ND HALF.

BAKU, NEAR-DEATH

BAKU, D

BAKU, C

SOUICHI, NEAR-DEATH

WILL START AT 8:26:00 AM.

THE GAME RESUMED AT 8:20:00 AM.

A PRECIOUS OPPOR-TUNITY!

AND THIS INTERVAL GAVE OSOGUI

WHICH MEANS, ABOUT 1 AND A HALF MINUTES OF NEAR-DEATH WOULD TAKE UP 5 MINUTES AS WELL!

FROM THEN ON, USOGUI ONLY NEEDED TO CONSUME ANOTHER "5 MINUTES" BY FAILING HIS "CHECK" AT SOME POINT.

HE WOULD EASILY ENTER...

BAKU, NEAR-DEATH

BAKU, NEAR-DEATH

SOUICHI, NEAR-DEATH

THE LEAP SECOND ROUTE!!

IT WAS LIKE BEING GUIDED BY SOMEONE.

THE GATE OF THE LEAP SECOND ROUTE WAS OPENED IN FRONT OF HIS EYES.

UNBELIEVABLE.

WHAT I SAW AT THAT TIME WAS THIS.

IT ACTUALLY MADE HIM SUSPECT IF THE LEAP SECOND HAD BEEN SEEN THROUGH BY LEADER...

HE WAS REST-LESS...

SUCH AN OPPOR-TUNITY SHOWED UP IN FRONT OF HIM SO EASILY LIKE THAT...

HE WAS STILL FAR FROM VIC-TORY.

OTHERWISE, HE COULD NEVER HAVE REACHED THE LEAP SECOND.

HE HAD TO SEE THROUGH LEADER...

THE ENEMY WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

USOGUI COULDN'T FOCUS FULLY ON HIS LEAP SECOND PLAN.

NOTHING IS ABSOLUTE

RESETTING HAD TO WAIT UNTIL HE WAS CLOSER TO THE LEAP SECOND.

LEAP SECOND ROUTE

LEAP SECOND ROUND

RESET

LEAP SECOND NOTE.

HOWEVER, IT WAS STILL TOO EARLY TO ENTER THE

THERE WAS STILL A LOT OF TIME UNTIL THE LEAP SECOND!! IF HE FAILED HIS "CHECK" AGAIN,

RESETTING HIS NEAR-DEATH DRUG TOO EARLY WOULD CAUSE HIS CYLINDER TO RUN OUT OF SPACE.

EVERYTHING WOULD BE IN VAIN.

THE INTERVAL WOULD EXCEED 5 MINUTES AND REACH 6 MINUTES!! IF SO, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THE LEAP SECOND ROUTE!

REVIVAL AND THE INTERVAL

BETWEEN THE INJECTION AND THE NEAR-DEATH HAPPENS.

6 MINUTES

IF HE ACCUMULATED A LARGE AMOUNT OF NEAR-DEATH DRUG, FOR EXAMPLE, 60 SECONDS.

HOWEVER, HIS CYLINDER WAS CLOSE TO EXCEEDING THE LIMIT AS WELL.

25 SEC

AT THAT TIME, OSOGUT'S ACCUMULATION WAS 25 SECONDS.

MADARAME BAKU

ABSOLUTELY NONE.

NONE.

AT THAT TIME, USOGUI DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY TO "SAFELY" USE THE SAFE STRATEGY.

I WANT TO MAKE A BET.

EVEN IF I WON'T THAT AMOUNT

I THINK I WOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO FULL AMOUNT THE LATER PHASE.

IN ORDER TO LOWER THE ACCUMULATION EVEN A BIT...

THE "LEAP SECOND" WOULD COLLAPSE.

IN THE 3RD ROUND, 1ST HALF,

IF IT ACCUMULATED A LARGE AMOUNT.

AND OVERFLOWED OUT FROM HIS BODY.

HIS DESIRE TURNED INTO A MAD DETERMINATION

WHILE HE WAS SITTING STILL.

00:04

LEADER WAS DEVOURED.

MISTAKING ISOGAI'S PLAN TO BE "DYING 3 TIMES".

IN THE END, THE ACCUMULATION WAS SUPPRESSED AT 4 SECONDS ONLY.

"THE LEAP SECOND"

IT EVEN MANAGED TO DOMINATE

ISOGAI SAW THROUGH LEADER...

THAT NOBODY NOTICED!!

SAW THROUGH ME.

ONLY THE "POWER" YOU CURRENTLY OWN NEEDS TO BE OPENED.

REVEALING YOUR HIDDEN "POWER".

THE SO CALLED BATTLE IS ABOUT OPENING YOUR OWN DRAWERS

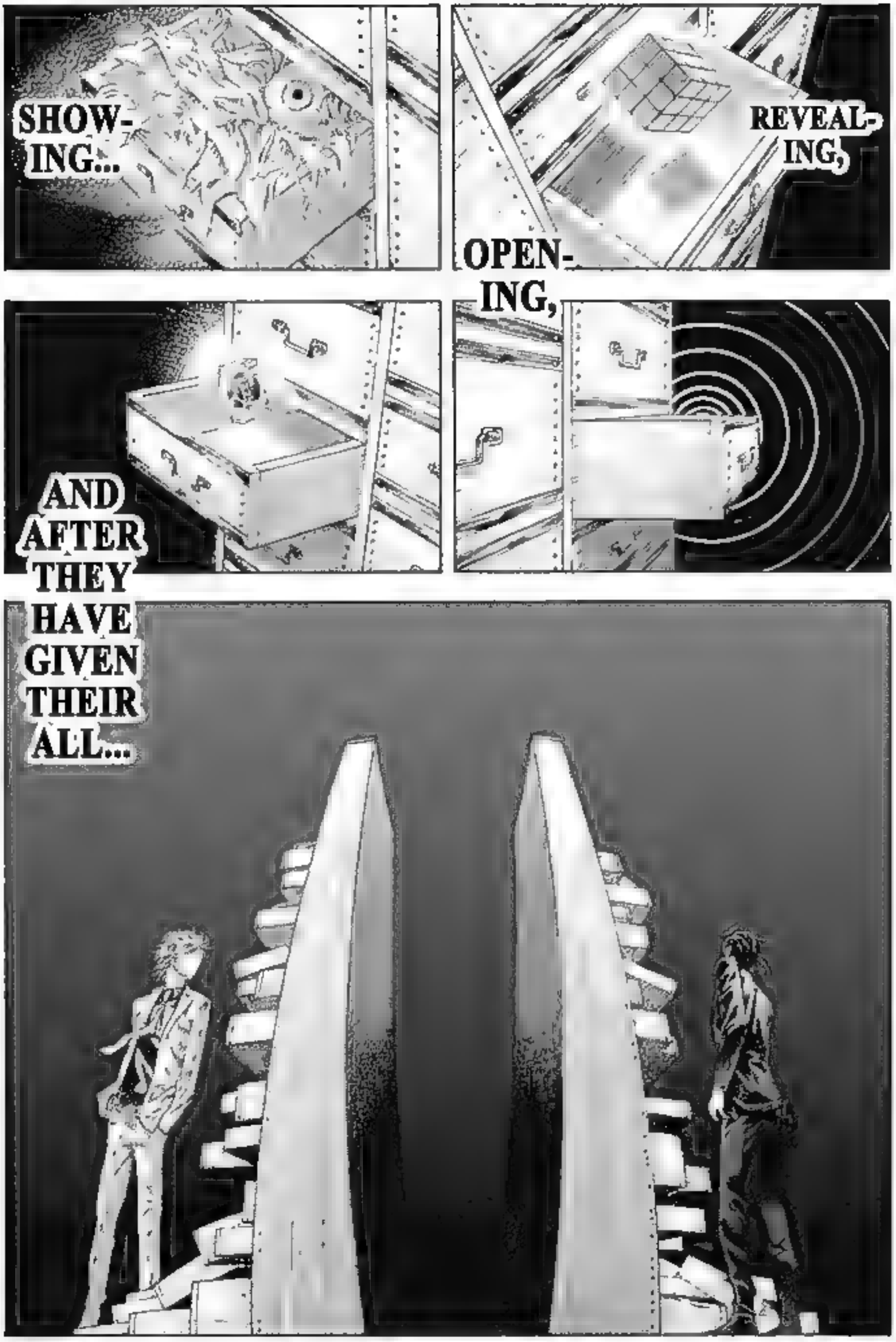
A CRUCIAL MOMENT DURING A BATTLE HAS NO OPPORTUNITY FOR A FAKE POWER.

EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON WHAT "POWER" IS HIDING INSIDE YOU.

THE TWO

AND BATTLED WITH THEIR OWN "POWER".

OPENED THEIR OWN DRAWERS.


SHOW-
ING...
REVEAL-
ING,
OPEN-
ING,
AND
AFTER
THEY
HAVE
GIVEN
THEIR
ALL...

AS HIS STEPPING STONES,

HE STEPPED OVER THE WRECKAGE OF DRAWERS

THEN,

THE "UNCER-TAINTY" WHICH HAS BEEN SEALED UP THERE FOR SO LONG...

"UNCER-TAINTY"...

AND PRIED OPEN THAT

THE "UNCERTAINTY" WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEE...

CHAPTER. 528
THE MOMENT HE ENTERED THE LEAP SECOND ROUTE

8:59:60

AS I THOUGHT, HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEVERAGE THAT "1 SECOND"

UNLESS HE SAW THROUGH KIRUMA FULLY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, RANKO?

HERE.

USOGUI HAD ALREADY ENTERED THAT ROUTE AT THIS MOMENT

THE 2ND HALF OF THE 6TH ROUND,

USOGUI'S SECOND NEAR-DEATH...

BAKU NEAR-DEATH

CLACK

8

5 MIN

NOR WAS HE PREPARING TO TAKE A 3RD NEAR-DEATH.

IT WAS NEITHER A BATTLE OF "SCRAMBLING FOR THE NEAR-DEATH",

AND MAKE IT RESUME AT 8:43:00. BY DOING SO,

USOGUI WAS ABLE TO MOVE THE GAME FORWARD BY 5 MINUTES.

THANKS TO THAT NEAR-DEATH.

LEAP SECOND.

HE ENTERED THE "LEAP SECOND ROUTE".

THE CAPACITY OF HIS CYLINDER WAS ENOUGH FOR HIM TO MAKE IT THROUGH THOSE 4 TURNS.

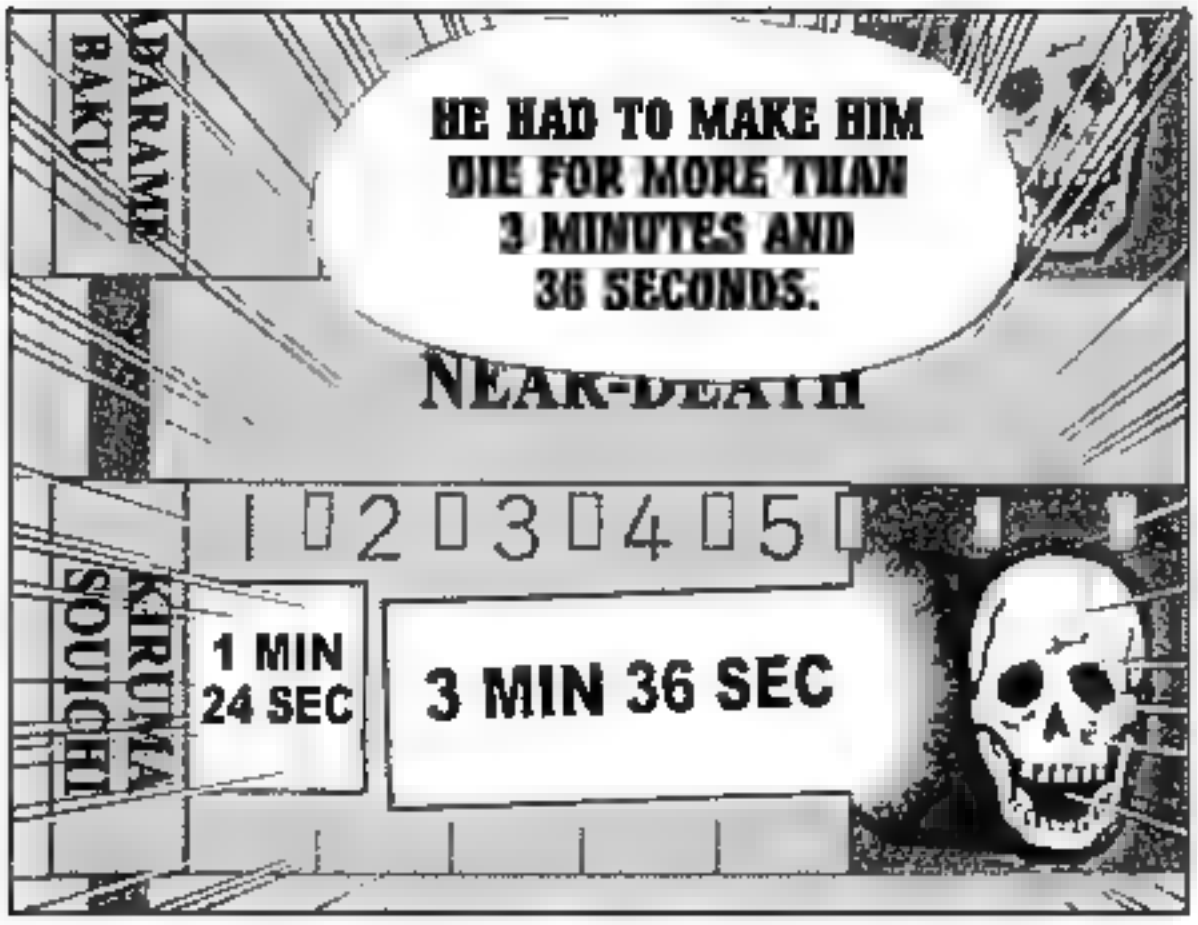
THANKS TO THE RESET,

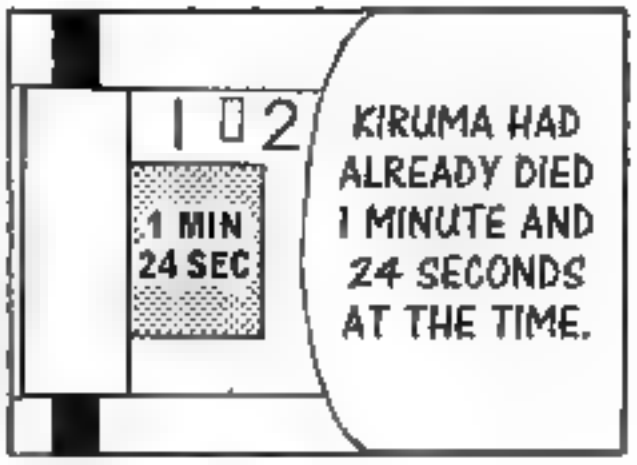
BUT USOGUI HAD ANOTHER WALL LEFT TO BREAK FOR THAT STRATEGY TO SUCCEED.

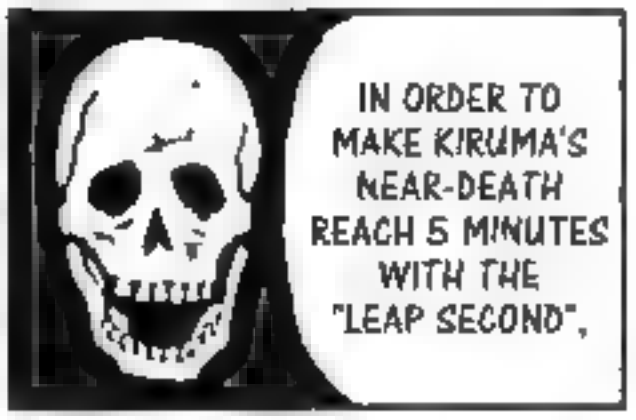
?

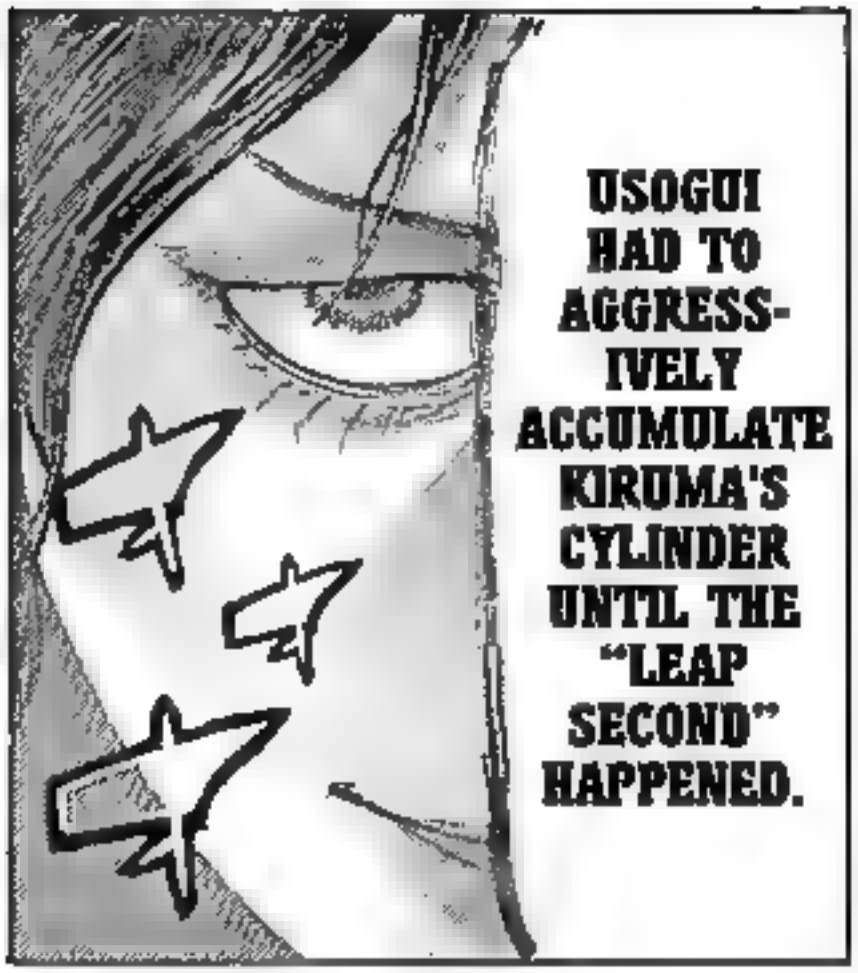
THERE WERE 4 TURNS OF "CHECKING" LEFT UNTIL 8:59:00, WHERE HE COULD THEN MAKE USE OF THE "LEAP SECOND".

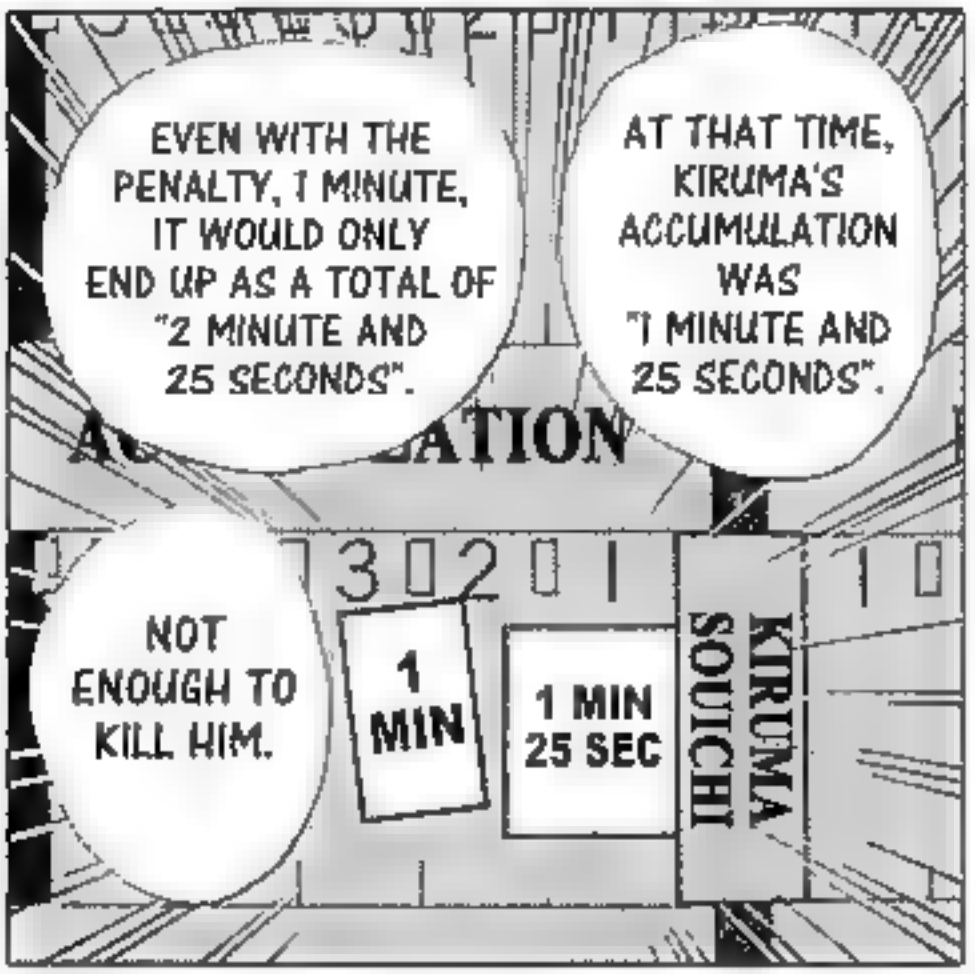
I'M SURE USOGUI WANTED TO PUT AN END TO THIS FIGHT WITH THE "LEAP SECOND".


HE HAD TO MAKE HIM DIE FOR MORE THAN 3 MINUTES AND 36 SECONDS.
NEAR-DEATH
0 2 0 3 0 4 0 5
KIRUMA SOUICHI
1 MIN 24 SEC
3 MIN 36 SEC


1 0 2
1 MIN 24 SEC
KIRUMA HAD ALREADY DIED 1 MINUTE AND 24 SECONDS AT THE TIME.


IN ORDER TO MAKE KIRUMA'S NEAR-DEATH REACH 5 MINUTES WITH THE "LEAP SECOND".


USOGUI HAD TO AGGRESS-IVELY ACCUMULATE KIRUMA'S CYLINDER UNTIL THE "LEAP SECOND" HAPPENED.


EVEN WITH THE PENALTY, 1 MINUTE, IT WOULD ONLY END UP AS A TOTAL OF "2 MINUTE AND 25 SECONDS".
AT THAT TIME, KIRUMA'S ACCUMULATION WAS "1 MINUTE AND 25 SECONDS".
NOT ENOUGH TO KILL HIM.
3 0 2 0 1
1 MIN
1 MIN 25 SEC
KIRUMA SOUICHI
1 0

IN THE 2ND HALF OF THE

INDEED, AS YOU REMINDED ME.

...

6TH AND 7TH ROUND,

USOGUI DROPPED INSTANTLY AT THE BEGINNING.

BUT.

I REMEM-BER.

THAT'S RIGHT.

HE WAS CLEARLY TARGETING THE ACCUMUL-ATION ONLY!!

DUE TO THE

GOD-LIKE KIRUMA AT THE TIME...

DUE TO THE MYSTE-RIOUS KIRUMA ...

USOGUI'S GOAL

FAILED ABRUPTLY.

7TH ROUND, 2ND HALF

WITH AN INSTANT CHECK THE SQUANDERED TIME S

1 SECOND !!

6TH ROUND, 2ND HALF

THE SQUANDERED TIME IS 8 SECONDS!!

I WONDER HOW IT FEELS WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO READ A PERSON'S MIND SO DEEPLY...

BUT, HE STILL WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED HIS STRATEGY.

ESPECIALLY AGAINST SUCH A MONSTROUS OPPONENT...

9 SECONDS.

3 2 1

+9

1 MIN 25 SEC

KIRUMA SOUICHI

1

HE ONLY ACCUMULATED 9 SECONDS DURING THOSE 2 ROUNDS...

HE STILL WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE KIRUMA DIE ONCE MORE.

EVEN IF IT WOULDN'T KILL HIM,

EVEN THOUGH KIRUMA'S ACCUMULATION WASN'T HIGH ENOUGH, THERE WAS NO WAY USOGUI WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP ON THE "LEAP SECOND" SINCE HE HAD FINALLY ENTERED THE ROUTE...

KIRUMA FAILED HIS "CHECK"

8TH ROUND, 2ND HALF

BUT, WAIT... HE WAS STRUGGLING TO HANDLE THE ACCUMULATION... BUT AFTER THAT...

...

BY DOING AN "INSTANT CHECK" ON PURPOSE.

KIRUMA'S ACCUMULATION WAS INCREASED IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

YES.

NEAR-DEATH

2 3 4 5

PEN-ALTY, 1 MIN

1 MIN

34 SEC

HIS OWN NEAR-DEATH HIMSELF...

KIRUMA CHOSE

THAT WAS A "DO-OR-DIE RESET" THAT KIRUMA DID IN ORDER TO GET A 100% WIN AGAINST USOGUI.

THAT ROUND STARTED AT 8:51:00.

.....

THE GAME RESUMED AT 8:57:00.

AFTER THE REVIVAL AND THE INTERVAL,

ABOUT 2 AND A HALF MINUTES

2 MINUTES AND 34 SECONDS

ABOUT 1 MINUTE

10

THERE WAS ABOUT 1 MINUTE UNTIL THE NEAR-DEATH.

ABOUT 1 MINUTE

THEN, HE DIED FOR 2 MINUTES AND 34 SECONDS.

2 MINUTES AND 34 SECONDS

ABOUT 1 MINUTE

ENTERED THE "LEAP SECOND" ROUTE.

USOGUI ONCE AGAIN

USOGUI

C

D

I WONDER HOW IT FEELS

WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO READ A PERSON'S MIND SO DEEPLY..

WHAT KIND OF FACE IS HE MAKING..

KIRUMA'S DECISIVENESS ENDED UP IRONICALLY ADDING TO HIS ACCUMU-LATION.

SUCH... SUCH A LUCKY MAN!

HE ALSO PLACED USOGUI BACK ONTO THE "LEAP SECOND ROUTE"!

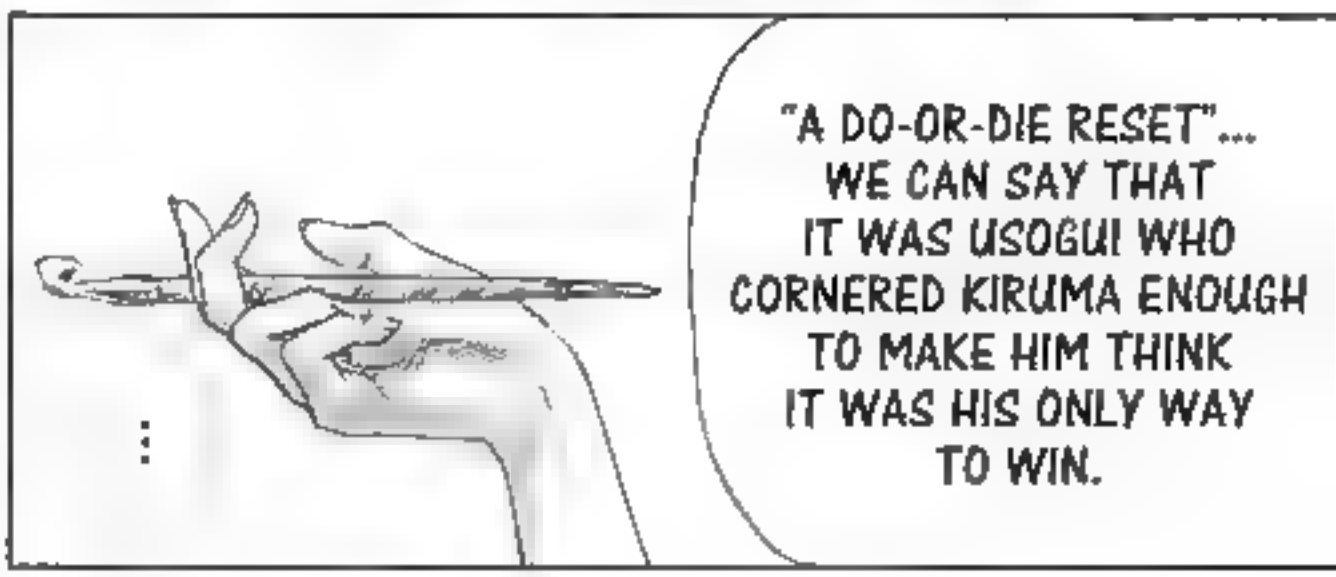
NOT ONLY DID HE PUSH HIMSELF EVEN CLOSER TO HIS DEATH.

THE CPR HAS_

ENDED_

WANTED TO ACCUMULATE AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE, EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY BY A SECOND.
USOGUI
THEN, WHY...
MOREOVER A "SUCCESSFUL CHECK" WAS AN ABSOLUTE CONDITION FOR USING THE LEAP SECOND

MAYBE THAT UNEXPECTED SELF DESTRUCTION BY KIRUMA WASN'T ONLY MERE LUCK FOR USOGUI.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, RANKO...?
WELL, ...


...
"A DO-OR-DIE RESET"... WE CAN SAY THAT IT WAS USOGUI WHO CORNERED KIRUMA ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM THINK IT WAS HIS ONLY WAY TO WIN.

DROP IMMEDIATELY AT THAT TIME?

WHY DIDN'T HE

HE COMPLETELY... SAW THROUGH KIRUMA.

THAT KIRUMA WOULD TURN AROUND IMMEDIATELY.

USOGUI KNEW

SO INSTEAD OF CLINGING ONTO THE "LEAP SECOND".

GOING AS FAR AS GIVING UP THE "LEAP SECOND ROUTE" AND THEN RETURNING BACK ONTO IT RIGHT AFTER THE NEAR DEATH.

HE CHOSE TO FOLLOW HIS OWN HEAD.

BAKU-SAMA...

BAKU-SAMA...

THAT'S HOW YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN...

I WAS THE ONE WHO DECIDED ALL OF IT...

WHETHER IT WAS THE SPEAKING CLOCK...

OR THE "DROP THE HANDKER-CHIEF" GAME...

YOU WERE JUST FULLY CONFIDENT

YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING...

THAT EVERYTHING WOULD END UP AS YOU PREDICTED.

EVEN AT THAT TIME,

HE WAS STILL LAUGHING.

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT,

YOU WERE ALSO LAUGHING AT THAT TIME...

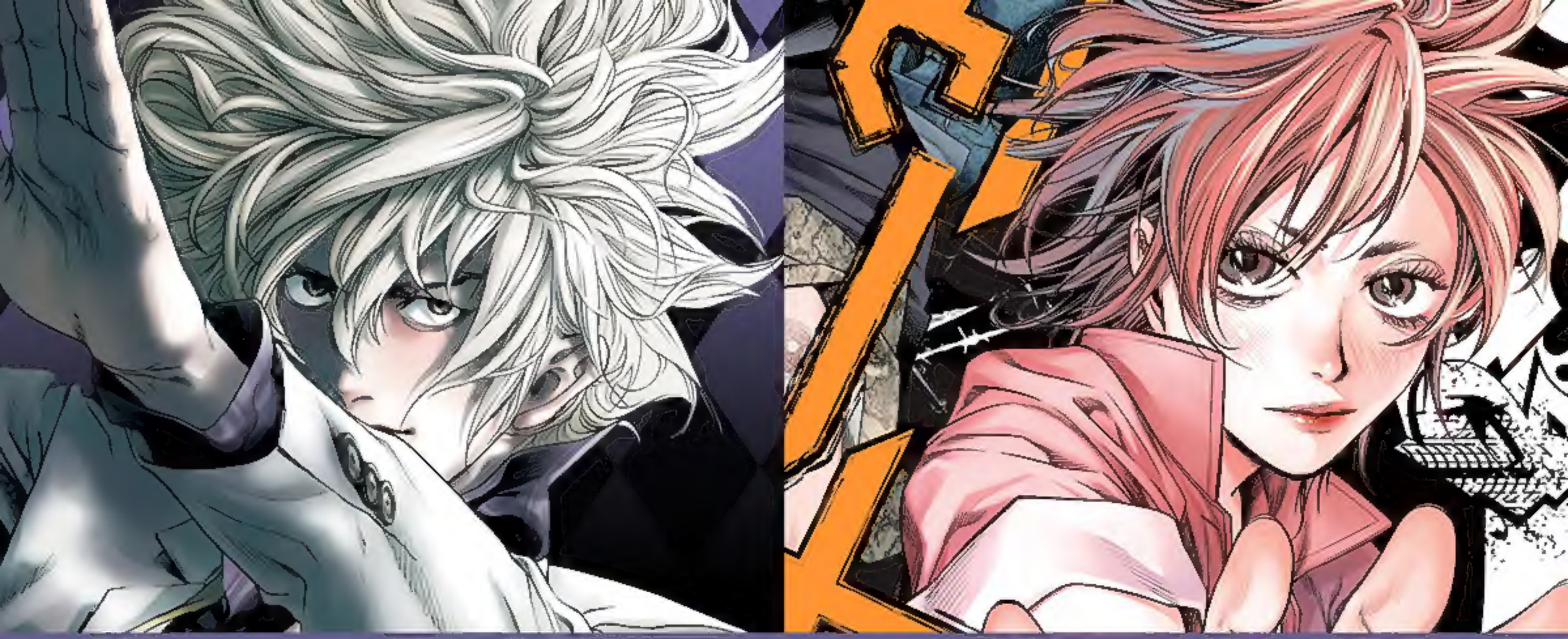
AND

HA HA HA

EVEN NOW...

HA HA HA HA HA

敗北い完



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USOGUI
SIDE STORY

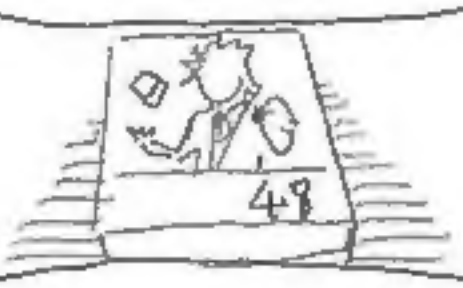
SAKO TOSHIO

SAKO TOSHIO.

I'M THE AUTHOR,

LONG TIME NO SEE, EVERYONE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PURCHASING THE 48TH VOLUME OF USOGUI.



IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOUR SUPPORT, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME THIS FAR.

CANNOT EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE.

EVEN DEATH

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

HAVE "PROOF" OF OUR MEMORIES TOGETHER.

I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO

THAT'S MY DREAM.

3RD GRADE, YAMAMOTO ICHI

THE COLUMN ON THE FINAL PAGE OF JUMP COMICS IN THE OLD DAYS.

YOU KNOW, THAT THING,

PLEASE,

HELP ME CREATE OUR "PROOF".

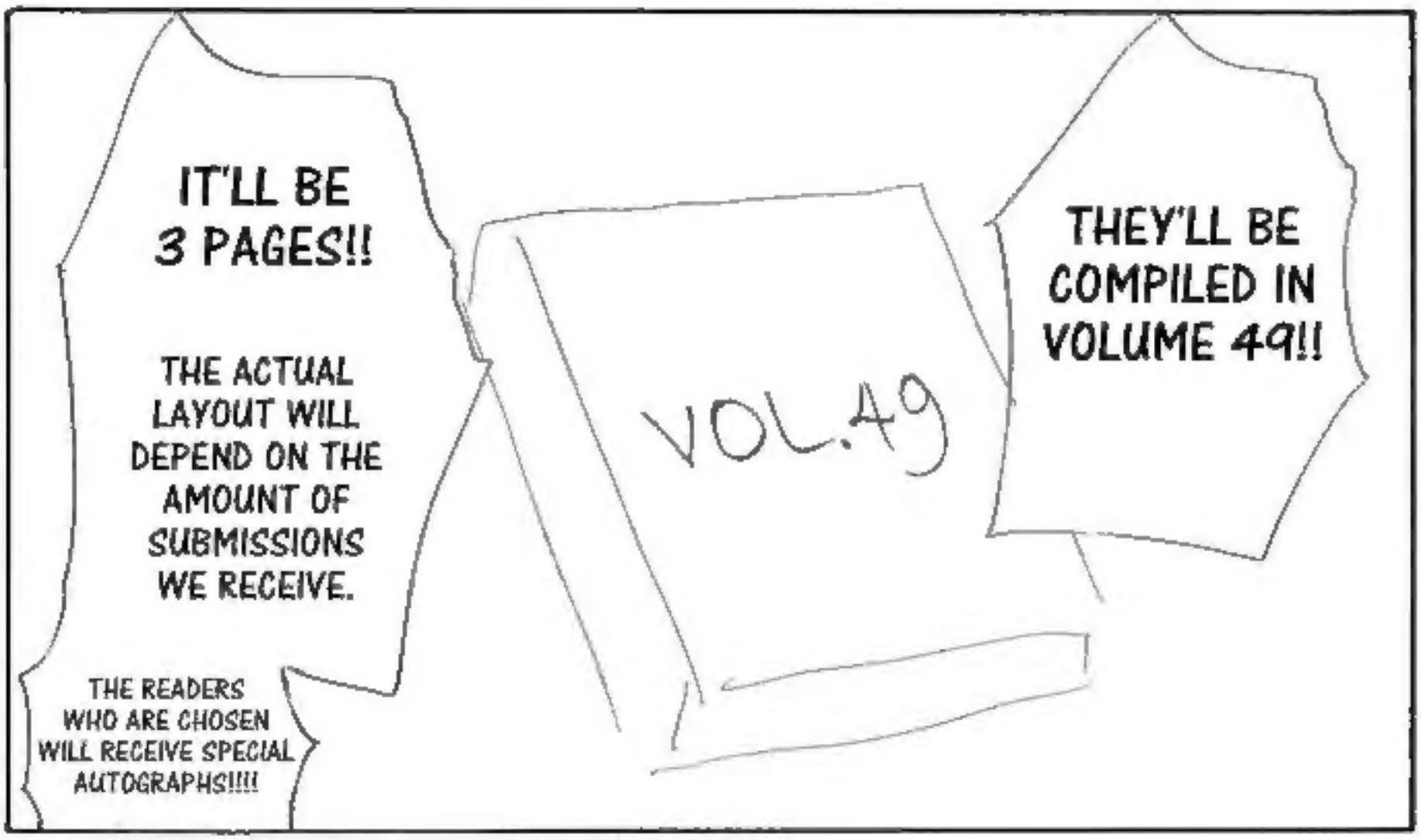
A MEMORY THAT WILL NEVER FADE!!

IT'S ALSO A "PROOF" THAT CONNECTS THE AUTHOR AND THE READERS.

IT'D BE BEST IF YOU COULD INCLUDE DRAWINGS!!

THE CONTENT IS LIMITED TO 400 WORDS. IT'S OKAY TO BE ANONYMOUS.

A TOKEN OF LIFE!!


IT'LL BE 3 PAGES!!
THE ACTUAL LAYOUT WILL DEPEND ON THE AMOUNT OF SUBMISSIONS WE RECEIVE.
THE READERS WHO ARE CHOSEN WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL AUTOGRAPHS!!!!
VOL.49
THEY'LL BE COMPILED IN VOLUME 49!!

AS MENTIONED...

SAKO-SENSEI'S 'PROOF', WHICH WILL BE COMPILED IN USOGUI VOL.49,

IS WAITING FOR YOUR SUBMISSION!!

★PLEASE MAIL THE MESSAGE, ILLUSTRATION, AND YOUR PHOTO TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.

RECEIVER

〒101-8052 集英社 週刊ヤングジャンプ編集部
「迫先生^証^レター」大募集係 狩野宛

★DEADLINE: 2017/12/20(WED).
★CONTENTS: YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT "USOGUI" AND THE CHARACTERS, THE WORDS YOU'D LIKE TO SAY TO SAKO-SENSEI, AS WELL AS THE ILLUSTRATIONS.
★LIMIT: 400 WORDS.
★ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SELECTED READERS: SEE THE END PAGES OF USOGUI VOL.49 (SCHEDULED TO BE PUBLISHED ON 2018/02/19(MON)).

※AS LIMITED BY THE PAGES, NOT ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE SELECTED. THERE WON'T BE ANY OTHER COMPILATIONS.
※TO MAKE THE LAYOUT LOOK GOOD, PLEASE ATTACH ILLUSTRATIONS OR YOUR PHOTOS.
※YOUR PERSONAL INFO WILL NOT BE USED IN ANY OCCASION OTHER THAN THIS EVENT.

*WE WON'T TRANSLATE THE READERS' COMMENTS IN THE NEXT SIDE STORY IN THE NEXT VOLUME, BUT WILL STILL POST IT BECAUSE THERE ARE ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOS.